



SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY
WORKING THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION FALL 2008

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Texas Death Penalty News and Alerts



Robert Badinter, French Abolitionist Comes to Houston!

Mr. Badinter, pictured at a death penalty protest in February 2007, led the effort to abolish the death penalty in France when he was Minister of Justice under Francoise Mitterand. See page 10 for more information on hearing him speak.

At the Death House Door to be shown in Dallas and San Antonio

The Dallas and San Antonio TCADP chapters are hosting showings of the recently released film highlighting the Carlos Deluna case and the story of Rev. Carroll Pickett, death house chaplain. Rev. Pickett will be present to share his reflections. The Dallas showing will be held at the Angelika Theatre (5321 E Mockingbird Lane, Dallas), October 1, at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10 for Adults, and \$7 for students. The documentary is receiving much attention across the United States and has received multiple awards. See page 5 for more details on the San Antonio showing.

Music for Life in Waco and Finale at Scholz's Biergarten in Austin

The Sara Hickman concert series is finishing its roll through Texas cities with a concert in Waco and the finale in Austin. The finale will celebrate raising the dialogue on the death penalty over 12 months in 12 Texas cities. The finale lineup includes: Sara Hickman, El Paso Mayor John Cook, Shelley King, Terri Hendrix, and Kinky Friedman! More may be coming! Spread the word and come out for a great party to finalize this amazing tour across Texas. See page 4 to join in the fun!



Impending Executions

September

- 9 Gregory Wright
- 10 Charles Hood
- 17 William Murray
- 18 Joseph Ries

October

- 16 Kevin Watts
- 28 Eric Nenno

November

- 6 Elkie Taylor, Rogelio Cannady
- 12 George Whitaker, III
- 13 Denard Manns
- 18 Eric Cathey
- 20 Robert Hudson

2008 Executed:

Karl Chamberlain, Carlton Turner, Derrick Sonnier, Larry Davis, Jose Medellin, Heliberto Chi, Leon Dorsey, Michael Rodriguez

National Alliance on Mental Illness & Murder Victims Families for Human Rights

Private sessions will be held between murder victims' family members and families touched by mental illness and the death penalty at a groundbreaking conference to be held at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. To learn more and volunteer, see page 8.

Faith Communities Invited to Host Educational Events on the Death Penalty

Learn more about how TCADP can support you in hosting an educational event at your church or in your faith community. Check out some of the events already planned by Texas faith communities. Here is an opportunity to host a speaker, share in dialogue or show a film. See page 6 for details.

TCADP launches outreach to Murder Victim Family Members

Not all families touched by violence seek the death penalty. A new project seeks to find family members willing to speak against the use of the death penalty even in the face of losing a loved one to murder. See page 9 for information on how to get involved.



A Note from the Chair

Page 2, Fall 2008

As we approach the end of summer, the horror of continual executions is once again upon us...the state has conducted 8 of the nation's 20 executions thus far, and Texas has 13 more dates set before the end of this year. A unique Texas law that makes accomplices as culpable as the killer in a capital murder case, the "law of parties", is again at the center of an ongoing controversy in this state.

The New York Times reported that under the Texas "law of parties," people who conspire to commit a felony are all responsible for an ensuing crime, like murder, if it can be shown they should have known it would happen.

The United States Supreme Court has upheld the principle, ruling in 1987 that the Constitution does not forbid the death penalty for a defendant "whose participation in a felony that results in murder is major and whose mental state is one of reckless indifference."

At least 7 people have been executed in the United States since 1985 for being accomplices in crimes during which one of their partners committed murder, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Three of those were executed in Texas. In 2007 Governor Perry did commute the death sentence of Kenneth Foster who had been convicted under the law of parties.

It remains to be seen whether the Texas legislature will overturn this heinous law when it convenes for its next session in January 2009. For us, however, now is the perfect time to contact our legislators to tell them it is time to eliminate the possibility of the death penalty in law of parties cases and to end this despicable practice called the death penalty.

Rick Halperin

President, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Please Note: Thomas Miller-EI is now at the Wynne Unit in Huntsville. His address is:

Thomas Miller-EI #1492054, TDCJ-Wynne Unit, Huntsville, TX 77349

TCADP SEARCHING FOR NEW TREASURER

After eight years, Sherry Coombes will be leaving the Treasurer's position at the end of the year. The Board is searching for an interested member to replace her in the job. It is an unpaid position, but is critical to the success of the Coalition at this watershed time.

Duties principally involve keeping the Coalition's books, recording and depositing funds received, paying bills, managing payroll and taxes, preparing financial statements, and reporting regularly to the Board of Directors. Living near Austin is helpful, but not required.

Interested members with accounting or bookkeeping experience and commensurate computer skills should email the Secretary, Jim Coombes, at: raven20@austin.rr.com. A background check for surety bonding will be required. A more detailed job description will be provided upon request.



SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

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Fall Issue #23, 2008 Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall

Mail your name, address, and phone number with annual donation to Austin office to receive quarterly newsletters. All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you! If you are already a member and would like to receive the TCADP newsletter via email, send your name and email address to info@tcadp.org.

The Texas Legislature will convene in January 2009. This will be the 81st session of the legislature and will run from January 13 until late May. If past sessions are any indication, there will be several pieces of proposed legislation filed that will be of great interest to TCADP members. These may range from "fixes" in the criminal justice system to calls for both a moratorium and abolition of the death penalty. We are in fact certain that there will be an abolition bill filed this session. TCADP has had meetings with the staff of Representative Jessica Farrar (D-Houston) and she has agreed to file the abolition bill. TCADP will be working with Rep. Farrar and her staff to write the bill and to develop plans designed to move the bill to a hearing in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. TCADP is also currently involved in discussions with a member of the Texas Senate with an eye to filing a companion bill in that chamber, again with a goal of moving that bill to a committee (Senate Criminal Justice) hearing. We will keep you informed on the progress of both of these initiatives and alert you as to how you may be able to help in these actions.

But, what can/should you be doing now? This is the time to contact and meet with those who represent you in the state legislature. These individuals are much more accessible now than when

they go to Austin for the legislative session. They are in their districts, and in many cases preparing for the upcoming November elections. They are willing to meet and talk with those who have the power of the vote in their hands—you! Texas Senators and Representatives need to hear directly from you about your thoughts, concerns, and issues. TCADP strongly urges you to make an appointment with your state representative or senator. Two or three of you may want to go together to such a meeting. With only a little preparation you can make a meeting like this very successful. TCADP offers the following recommendations/suggestions.

- Begin by thanking the member for the work they have done. Identify some specific action or piece of legislation that you liked (and no matter how you feel about the individual, there surely is something he/she has done that you agree with).
- Then, state your concerns/issues. Write these points down beforehand so you can state them succinctly at your meeting. You can easily refer to them during the meeting to make sure you don't forget something.
- TCADP has developed multiple resource documents including a Texas death penalty fact sheet—that should provide you sufficient talking points. Use this information.

- If you are asked a question and you don't have the answer, tell them you will get back to the individual or a staff member with the answer. And then do it!

- Thank the individual for their time, and, if appropriate, agree to meet again sometime in the future.

Follow up in a day or two with a "Thank You" note (and any information that you said you would get).

What about those individuals who are running for office? Again, this is a great time to talk with them as well. They are looking for your support. They want to talk to you to persuade you to vote for them. It's an even exchange: they want

to talk to you; you want to talk to them. And if you help them to get elected, then they owe you some consideration when they are in office. The format for the meeting would follow the bullet points listed above. So, go meet with them, and if you are so inclined, support them in their campaign.

How do you find your State Reps. and Senators? That's easy! You can identify current legislators by visiting the Texas Legislature Online website at www.capitol.state.tx.us. Look on the right side of the page for the question "Who represents me?"

So, get out there and go meet your members of the legislature and/or those who are running for those offices!

Film Showings on Texas College Campuses By Nancy Bailey

A major part of our Strategic Plan to end the death penalty is our Outreach and Education Program. A vital area within this program is our outreach to students. **An immediate goal is to have showings of a death penalty-related film such as "At the Death House Door" at five Texas college/university campuses this fall.**



If you are interested in this program or have contacts with student groups that might like to arrange a screening, contact your local chapter leader (see www.tcadp.org), call the TCADP office in Austin at 512-441-1808, or send an email to outreach@tcadp.org. We would love to help arrange an event.

Music for Life Tour Wrapping Up!



Austin Lounge Lizards join the tour for the Waco Concert, September 18

The Music for Life tour continues its successful trek throughout Texas. Sara Hickman has devoted much time and energy to increase the dialogue on the death penalty across the state. And the people of Texas have willingly embraced her and the opportunity to discuss the issue of the death penalty. The concerts have jump started the development of a new chapter in Huntsville and the addition of El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty as a chapter as well. Additionally, many contacts have been made across the state that are allowing TCADP to reach out to new groups of people.

At the most recent concerts—San Angelo in June and Dallas in July—the audience was fully engaged with the performers and the speakers. In San Angelo, local musician Cindy Jordan joined Sara and shared three songs that she had written for the occasion. Lupe and Emma Fabela of Odessa told the story of the murder of their son and their opposition to the death penalty. In Dallas, area artist Colin Boyd entertained with serious and humorous songs. El Paso Mayor John Cook returned to the tour and once again received the admiration of all because he, as an elected official, would dare to publicly take a stand against the death penalty. Mayor Cook responded that he has to live with himself every day as he looks at himself in the mirror, and followed up with the song that he wrote to the poem, "The Man in the Glass," that explains his decision. Rev. Michael Piazza, Pastor of the Cathedral of Hope, and Rick Halperin, President of TCADP, gave presentations that generated much conversation with the audience.

Two more concerts remain on the agenda, Waco scheduled September 18 and the "grand finale" of the tour planned for Austin, October 1 at Scholz's Biergarten.

Witness to Innocence (WTI) will host a fundraiser in Dallas October 29, and then move to Austin for the annual meeting during which they will host a press conference October 31. WTI challenges the American public to grapple with the problem of a fatally flawed criminal justice system that sends innocent people to death row. Designed to shift public opinion against capital punishment, the project is an educational vehicle that plays a critical role in the anti-death penalty movement.

Witness to Innocence is spearheaded by former death row prisoners who have been exonerated and released from death rows across the United States and who, along with their loved ones, are now actively engaged in the struggle to end the death penalty. These courageous witnesses bring a human face to the death penalty that no one else can. Through their compelling stories, they illuminate the unfairness and immorality of capital punishment – and in turn move citizens and public opinion more than any ordinary politician or activist can ever hope to do.



MUSIC FOR LIFE TOUR

Featuring

Sara Hickman & Friends

Raising the Dialogue on the Death Penalty in Texas

www.tcadp.org/musictour.php

- KICKOFF:** October 3, 7:00pm First United Methodist Church, Austin w/ Barbara K ✓
 November 7: Olson Auditorium Sam Houston State Univ., Huntsville ✓
 December 8: First Unitarian Universalist Church - San Antonio w/Shelley King ✓
 January 14: Burning Bush Coffeehouse, Corpus Christi w/Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart ✓
 February 6: Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston w/Trish Murphy ✓
 March 3: Lamar University - John Gray Auditorium, Beaumont ✓
 April 9: Club 101, El Paso w/ Mayor John Cook ✓
 May 29: Dan's Silverleaf Denton w/ Carl Finch and El Paso Mayor John Cook ✓
 June 25: First United Methodist Church, San Angelo w/ Cindy Jordan ✓
 July 20: Cathedral of Hope, Dallas w/ Colin Boyd and El Paso Mayor John Cook ✓
 August 23: Jefferson Freedom Café, Ft. Worth w/ El Paso Mayor John Cook ✓

September 18: Waldo's Coffeehouse, **Waco** -Austin Lounge Lizards

FINALE: October 1 Scholz's Biergarten, **Austin** - w/ Shelley King, Terri Hendrix, El Paso Mayor John Cook and Kinky Friedman



12 CITIES - 12 MONTHS

LISTEN, LEARN, AND HAVE FUN!

Organized by and benefiting the
 Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Austin Chapter will sponsor a play as a fundraising event on September 23. The play entitled "Third" is a political comedy written by Wendy Wasserstein, who also wrote "The Heidi Chronicles". A silent auction will be held which will include restaurant gift cards, jewelry, art objects, wine & cheese baskets and more. The play will be performed by the Paradox Players at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, 4700 Grover Ave. The silent auction begins at 7:00 PM and the play is at 8:00 PM. Tickets (\$20) may be purchased at the door or in advance by contacting austin@tcadp.org or the TCADP office at 512-441-1808. All proceeds from the evening benefit TCADP. Spread the word and buy tickets!

Dallas Chapter on October 29, 2008 will have a fundraising house party in conjunction with Witness to Innocence, an organization of exonerated death row prisoners. Several exonerated prisoners will be speaking. For more information on this event, contact Dave Atwood (832-693-5710) or Susybelle Gosslee (214) 732-8610

El Paso Chapter will resume monthly vigils on September 4 at noon on the first Thursday of each month, in front of the El Paso County Courthouse (San Antonio Avenue at Kansas Street). The new TCADP chapter is starting a program of sending birthday cards to death row inmates modeled after an Arkansas program and will be hosting a showing of *At the Death House Door* in October.



Houston Chapter recently tabled at the Houston Pride Festival in Houston. Over 100 names of support were collected. The chapter is also working with the French consulate to host a speaking event featuring Robert Badinter. See page 10 for more information.

On October 11, 2008, the Houston Chapter will host a "teach-in/rally" at the University of St. Thomas (gather in the Ahearn Room in the Crooker Center). The event will start at 10 am and will feature information that will help activists and other concerned citizens speak effectively on this subject. The event is being held to celebrate "World Day Against the Death Penalty".

Huntsville Chapter will be supporting a group of students called BearKats Against the Death Penalty at Sam Houston State University. The group will be handing out literature and getting petition signatures on Sept. 24 from 12-1pm. (So far, the group only has one member but that's a start.) If you have students at Sam Houston State let them know about this opportunity to get involved on campus, huntsville@tcadp.org.

San Antonio Chapter is working with the San Antonio Peace Center to publish a book written by David Atwood about his experiences with the death penalty in Texas. The book entitled "Detour to Death Row" will debut following the screening of "At the Death House Door" at the Palladium Theatre in San Antonio on September 2. Rev. Carroll Pickett, featured in the film will be at the screening to engage in dialogue and answer questions.

Thank you to Susan Ives, Rosalyn Collier, Roger Barnes and Joan Cheever who have been instrumental in completing the book project.

Chapters (C), Regional Reps (RR), and Affiliates (A)

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Corpus Christi (C) Jeanne Adams corpuschristi@tcadp.org	Victoria (C) Rev. Wanda Ritchea victoria@tcadp.org
Dallas/Ft. Worth (C) Rick Halperin dallas@tcadp.org	(please call the state office if you need a contact phone number)

TCADP's Outreach and Education Committee thanks all faith communities that have responded to our invitation to organize a program on the death penalty this fall. Here are some of the activities we've learned about thus far:

- Cathedral of Hope in Dallas is hosting a three-month series of events, which began in July with the "Music for Life" concert featuring Sara Hickman. The members of Hope for Peace & Justice will screen two death penalty-related films in August and will sponsor a reading of the play "The Exonerated" in September. On Sunday, September 21, Sister Helen Prejean will be the special guest preacher. Visit <http://www.h4pj.org/wagejustice/index.php> to learn about these phenomenal events!
- The Life Teen Program at St. Thomas More Parish in Austin plans to devote two weekly Sunday sessions in October to the death penalty issue. The first session will feature a film on the issue. On the second Sunday, two speakers will provide the high school students with a brief talk and answer questions. (Thanks to TCADP member Dan Kaminski for arranging these events!)
- St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston plans to watch "At the Death House Door" in October.
- St. Mary's Catholic Church of Wimberley will be showing the film, "The Empty Chair" and hosting a speaker from TCADP.

Petitions, postcards, speakers, films, and discussion guides are available at no cost from TCADP. Written materials that present the death penalty from various faith perspectives are also available.

To learn more about suggested activities or to request resources, please visit the TCADP website at www.tcadp.org/index.php?page=religious-outreach (under Programs, click on "Religious Outreach"), send an email to outreach@tcadp.org, or call the TCADP office at 512-441-1808. A member of the TCADP Religious Outreach Committee will contact you shortly to follow up.

Note from the Founder: Don't Lose Heart! By David Atwood

The high number of executions in Texas since the state started killing people again in June of this year could cause some abolitionists to lose heart. The state often seems to be immune to basic justice, common decency or mercy. Quite frankly, Texas often reminds me of South Africa during the time of apartheid. However, when a new government was formed in South Africa under Nelson Mandela, one of the first things they did is abolish the death penalty.

We mustn't lose heart. We have had these moments before in Texas. I remember back in 2000 when the state carried out 40 executions. That was an incredibly difficult year.

We must remember that, despite the apparent intransigence of state officials, we are making significant progress towards our goal of abolishing the death penalty in Texas. Increasingly, polls show that citizens would prefer a sentence of Life Without Parole to capital punishment. Most major newspapers in Texas have recommended a moratorium on executions and two have recommended total abolition. And new death sentences are dropping.

I believe that this trend is the result of several factors:

1. Reports of problems with the criminal justice system and innocent people being sent to death row. It has become increasingly clear that the death penalty system is a flawed and biased system that should be abolished.
2. Educational efforts that have been going on around the state for many years.
3. Life without parole as an optional punishment for capital murder.
4. Changes in Texas demographics and an increasing number of citizens who know that the death penalty is not the answer to violent crime in our state.

So, we must not get discouraged. We must stay strong and steady in our efforts to abolish this barbaric form of punishment. We must continue our work to grow and strengthen the TCADP, educate the citizens of Texas and change the laws of this state. The citizens are coming with us - it is a long process - way too long - but I believe that we are winning this struggle.

As Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "I am convinced that we shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice".

P.S. On November 24, the Texas Catholic Conference will host a "Pilgrimage for Life" in Huntsville, Texas. Cardinal DiNardo and several Catholic Bishops are expected to participate. The event is taking place in Huntsville because all Texas executions take place at the Walls Unit in that city. More information on this event can be found on the following website:

www.TXcatholic.org/Pilgrimage.asp. Please contact me and Maria Huemmer at maria@txcatholic.org if you and others plan to attend.

On November 30 of each year, the Sant' Egidio Community celebrates "Cities for Life...Cities Against the Death Penalty". They encourage cities around the world to illuminate some public building or monument on the evening of that day. Last year, over 700 cities around the world participated in this program. In the past, we have participated in Texas by illuminating the front of Catholic cathedrals and having a prayer in front of the cathedral. If anyone would like to participate in the program this year, please contact me and I will advise Sant' Egidio, atwood@tcadp.org.

Thank You for Your Generous Support

Page 7, Fall 2008

TCADP thanks the following members and donors who have contributed generously from **May 13—August 16, 2008**. Your financial assistance is essential for TCADP to continue to GROW its advocacy and education efforts to end the death penalty in Texas. Forgive us if we have missed you and please let us know. In some instances we do not have spouses names.

Sam & Lois Adams Judith & Fred Allen David Atwood Angela Baker William Beauchamp
William Patrick Bishop William Bolin Abraham Bonowitz Stephen Andrew Bright Pierce Brockman
Barbara Budde Samuel Bustamante Pat Butter Rose Caldwell Karen & Joseph Carrizales Elva Chase
Andrewetta Childress Katheryn S. Clark Carolyn Clark Jim & Sherry Coombes Alison Dieter
Patricia & Charles Doyle Barbara Ehemann Jack & Harryette Ehrhardt Pelois Emmanuelle Kelly Epstein
Stefan Fehr Sharon Gabel Lee Greenwood Susan Gries Steven Henderson Lance Schriner & Sara Hickman
Stan Hutchison Nancy Hyde Shirley Johnson Mary Anne Kramer Virginia Lanter Paula Littles
Anthony Lorenzen John Lukert Keats McKinney Fr. Mark Miller Julie Grace Moseley Anne Mund Isaac Noel
Cleo Owens Fr. Robert Pena, OMI Carol Peters Pierre Pradervand Joyce Pulich Katia Rabacchi Ana Reza
Gerda Rodet Herbert & Deborah Rothschild Jr. Janet Seward Alice Shukalo Henevelyn Smith Myriam Stubbe
Mary Thompson Jared Tyler Patricia Vaughan John Walker Irene Wallace Justin Woodruff
Diocese of San Angelo Dominican Sisters Generation House Lifespark National Council of Jewish Women—Texas
PAX Christi Dallas Sisters of the Incarnate Word Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word

TCADP urges all members to keep their dues current. Maintaining your membership is important for a variety of reasons. We need to be able to count the number of people against the death penalty, particularly those who are willing to back it up with a financial investment to make it possible for us to fund our outreach and educational programs. **Thank you for your generous support!**

TCADP Organization Member Spotlight...

TCADP is pleased to welcome the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) as a new affiliate/organizational member.

NCJW's faith in the future and belief in action are reflected in its mission statement, updated and approved by the delegate body of the 44th National Convention in March 2008:

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

At the 44th National Convention, NCJW endorsed and resolved to work for the abolition of the death penalty as part of its mission to ensure and advance individual and civil rights. This represented an expansion of the organization's previous call for a moratorium.

NCJW's former Co-Chairs for Texas State Public Affairs, Ellen Sable (Austin) and Julie Lowenberg (Dallas), wasted no time in seizing the opportunity to join in coalition with TCADP, given the importance of the death penalty issue in Texas. TCADP thanks Ellen and Julie for their leadership and looks forward to working with the new State Public Affairs Co-Chairs, Janet Neuenschwander and Marlene Cohen.

NCJW has local sections in Austin, Greater Dallas, Greater Houston, and San Antonio. TCADP and the issue of the Texas death penalty will be the program for the October Austin Section Meeting.

To learn more about NCJW or to contact one of these local sections, please visit www.ncjw.org.

**National Council of
Jewish Women - Texas**



Update on Mental Illness and the Death Penalty Campaign by Kristin Houlé

For the past 18 months, I have had the distinct privilege of working with TCADP in my capacity as a Soros Justice Fellow. As my friend Bob Van Steenburg taught me to say, "I wasn't born in Texas, but I got here as quickly as I could." I moved to Texas because I was inspired by the committed, passionate, and amazing people I met through TCADP and I wanted to join you in changing the hearts and minds of Texans on this issue.

As my fellowship comes to a close on August 30, I would like to thank TCADP for serving as my host organization. I would also like to thank the Board and all TCADP members for their support and participation in the project. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Sherry Coombes and Vicki McCuistion for assisting me in a thousand different ways.

This isn't goodbye, however... I simply will be returning to my roots as a volunteer activist with the abolition movement and will continue to serve TCADP in other ways.

TCADP's efforts to promote a prohibition on the death penalty for offenders with severe mental illness also will move forward in several

ways. We will continue to collect signatures for the Mental Illness and the Death Penalty (MIDP) postcard campaign. In addition, the MIDP Organizing Packet and Resource Guide, which includes the DVD "Executing the Insane: The Case of Scott Panetti," is still available to anyone who wishes to learn more about these issues and take action in his/her community. Contact the TCADP office at 512-441-1808 or email Vicki at info@tcadp.org to request a packet or postcards. I will also continue to maintain the Prevention Not Punishment Blog (link can be found on TCADP website) and welcome your comments.

This fall, TCADP will participate in two exciting events:

- On October 3, Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights (MVFHR) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will gather at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. There they will host family members whose loved ones were killed by someone with a severe mental illness as well as family members of those who have been executed despite their severe mental illness. Private

meetings for the families will take place during the day; a public event will take place that afternoon. MVFHR and NAMI intend to interview participating family members and will release a report next summer. More details on the public event will be available soon.

- On October 4, the Austin Chapter of TCADP will participate in NAMI Walks for the Mind of America, NAMI's signature walk-athon event. It will take place from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Auditorium Shores in Austin, TX. NAMI is the largest education, support, and advocacy organization for those whose lives are touched by mental illness. If you would like to join the Walk team, go to <http://www.nami.org/namiwalks/08/TEX/tcadpaustin> to register. Or if you would like to make a donation, visit <http://www.nami.org/walkdonation.cfm?id=62741>. Donating online is fast and secure, and TCADP will receive immediate notification via e-mail of your donation.

Thanks!

Save the Date!

**TCADP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 21, 2009
AUSTIN, TX**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

**MORE DETAILS AND HOTEL INFO TO COME IN THE
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER. WATCH FOR IT!**

MVFHR is seeking volunteers in the San Antonio area who would be willing to help transport participants from the airport to the University of Incarnate Word (UIW) on the afternoon/evening of Thursday, October 2 (UIW is a short distance from the airport). We want to ensure that everyone receives a warm and hospitable welcome. If you can devote an hour or two to help with this effort, please contact Kristin at khoule@tcadp.org or call her at 202-494-3578. Thank you!



Eye and Tooth Project Part Two

by Nancy Bailey

Page 9, Summer 2008

Performance art is another way to promote dialogue about the death penalty. Movie theaters and TV schedules these days are providing the public with a lot of opportunities to look closely at the human costs of the death penalty.

Right here in Texas a program is being developed that can provide opportunities for us to participate in performance art. An Amnesty International Group 23 initiative, The Eye and Tooth Project, originally covered a broad array of human rights issues, including the death penalty. Beginning in 2003 a series of workshops lead to performances mostly in the Houston area. An inter-active presentation on the death penalty, exploring the ethics of healing vs. revenge for the sake of closure, played to a standing room-only crowd at the Main Street Theater in Rice Village/Houston.



2003 Performance

The Eye and Tooth Project Part Two: A Rolling Forum Theater Project will focus strictly on the death penalty. In the fall of 2008, John Sullivan and his gifted team will conduct a series of drama-based workshops leading up to public performances in major cities across Texas. These workshop/ performance events will use an exciting, audience-interactive format called Theatre of the Oppressed. One such workshop is currently taking place in Austin.

Many aspects of the death penalty are on the table as possible topics for workshops and events. John and some of his associates have shared a Power Point presentation of some of their previous works and general plans for Part Two to the Houston and the Austin chapters. TCADP has been invited to participate in the further development of this ambitious and exciting project and to share with our members the opportunity to become involved in the workshops and the performances. Information will soon be available on the website, www.tcadp.org.

There will be a need for organizational expertise, networking, graphics writing and performance skills (or at least willingness) so please contact John Sullivan at 409-370-1562 or jpatstx@gmail.com if you would like to be involved.

TCADP Launches Outreach Effort to Family Members of Murder Victims

TCADP has launched a new victims' outreach program, as part of our efforts to convince Texas legislators that the death penalty is bad public policy. Through this program, we aim to identify family members of murder victims who oppose the death penalty and would be willing to work with TCADP in some capacity. One component of the outreach program is a sign-on letter, which is based on similar efforts in New York and New Jersey and which seeks to provide an alternative perspective on the death penalty from those most directly impacted by it.

If you are the family member of a murder victim and would be willing to sign on to this letter – or if you know of someone who has lost a loved one to murder and might be willing to participate in this effort – please send an email to outreach@tcadp.org or contact the office at 512-441-1808. Please provide your name and the best way for us to reach you (phone and/or email), so that a member of the Outreach and Education Committee can follow up. Please be assured that these contacts will be handled with the utmost respect and sensitivity. We greatly appreciate your consideration.

TCADP Goes to Washington

The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty hosted a training in Washington, DC the first week of August for the leadership of the state affiliates. Kristin Houlé, Bob Van Steenburg, and Vicki McCuistion attended the training to represent the Texas affiliate, TCADP. Sessions held over three days included trainings on fundraising, membership development, and communications. Opportunities



to brainstorm on challenges currently faced by state affiliates, including Texas, provided occasions to meet colleagues from around the country and to learn best practices across the U.S. The cost of the training and travel was generously covered by NCADP.

"Abolition is Possible"

September 22, 2008

*The Consul General of France,
Mr. Pierre Grandjouan,
and the Board of the
Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty*

invite you to a special evening featuring:

Mr. Robert Badinter

Former Minister of Justice of France

Mr. Badinter led the effort to abolish the death penalty in France when he was Minister of Justice under Francois Mitterand. Mr. Badinter is an attorney and Professor of Law at Paris University I. He has served as President of the Constitutional Council of the French Republic and is a member of the French Senate. In addition to abolition of the death penalty, he presented and supported in Parliament the suppression of the State Security Court and the reinforcement of Habeas Corpus, and new rights for the victims of crime. He has devoted much time and energy to convince European States, notably in Eastern Europe, to settle conflicts peacefully. He was the main promoter of the Stockholm Convention of 1992. Mr. Badinter is the author of several books including The Abolition, Ordinary Anti-Semitism, The Republican Prison, The Execution, The Greater Good and Against Death Penalty.

The topic of Mr. Badinter's speech will be:

The Status of the Death Penalty in the World Today

Please join us to hear this remarkable man. Wine and cheese will be served at 7:00 pm, followed by a speech by Mr. Badinter. A tax-deductible donation of \$25 to the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP) is requested for each attendee. Larger donations are welcome.

Please RSVP using the reply form by September 15, 2008.

Join us September 22, 2008, 7:00 pm
Rice University, Herring Hall 100

Entrance 8 (Stockton) off University Blvd.

Reply form

"Abolition is Possible"

September 22, 2008

I want to be part of making Abolition Possible!

____ Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____ for _____ attendees.

(Suggested \$25 donation per person.)

____ I am unable to attend, but please accept my donation in the amount of \$_____.

Please make out your check to **TCADP**. TCADP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Name : _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Guests attending: _____

Note: All information will be held in strictest confidence.

For any questions, call (832) 693-5710 or email dpatwood@igc.org.

Mail form and check by September 15 to:

TCADP

c/o David Atwood

1802 Kipling St.

Houston, TX 77098

The Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is administered by a state-wide board of directors. We have an office and part-time program director in Austin. We would like to expand our staff in order to become more effective in our educational and legislative activities, but cannot do so unless we receive more financial support from the community. Any help you can provide would be deeply appreciated. Please see our website www.tcadp.org.

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

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If there is **no date** on your address label or a date prior to **9/01/2008**, please take the time to renew your membership or become a new member. See below for membership form.

JOIN TODAY!

Donations are tax deductible and support our education efforts in Texas.

I want to be counted as a member of TCADP and as actively working to end the death penalty in Texas.

_____ \$15.00 Student/Fixed Income Annual Member

_____ \$40.00 Annual Member

_____ \$60.00 Annual Joint Member

_____ \$100.00 Congregation/Organization Member

_____ \$250.00 Business Member

_____ \$ Enclosed is an additional contribution to support TCADP.

Please make checks payable to TCADP. Mail to TCADP, 2709 S Lamar, Austin, TX 78704. Secure online contributions can be made at www.tcadp.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

TCADP Quarterly Newsletter: _____ Print and/or _____ email

_____ I would like to host a program in my faith community, civic organization, or school.

_____ I want to host a party in my area with support from TCADP to recruit new members.