



SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

WORKING THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION

SPRING 2010

Inside This Issue:

From the Executive Director	2
New Board Members	3
Conference Wrap-up	4-5
Book Review	6
Chapter News/ Calendar	8-9
Member Spotlight	10
Thank you!	11
Join TCADP	12

Texas Death Penalty News and Alerts

NCADP Announces Texas Job Opening

The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP) is hiring a State Campaign Coordinator. This is a two-year position, based in Austin, Texas. The Coordinator will support NCADP state affiliates, including the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, in advancing the policy debate to lead to repeal of the death penalty. The search began February 22, 2010, and applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

The State Campaign Coordinator will work to support the efforts of local advocates in building a stronger state-wide network of policy advocates and activists to support eventual repeal of the death penalty in Texas and across the country. There will be a focus on coalition building, effective communications, membership development and fundraising in order to build strong organizations to educate the public and policy makers about the U.S. and Texas capital punishment systems.

Full job description: <http://www.ncadp.org/assets/TexasJob2010.pdf>

TCADP Regional Trainings Happening Across Texas

TCADP Staff and Board Members have been hitting the road, bringing specialized trainings to targeted regions across Texas. TCADP supporters and members are invited to participate in the day-long trainings and spend time developing local action plans. Learn more about these exciting organizing opportunities on page 6.

Contact Your Texas Legislators

Even though the Texas Legislature is not in session, TCADP is still busy talking with Texas legislators to lay the ground work for the 2011 Session. See page 10 for details on how you can help!

TCADP Volunteer Opportunities in April, May, and June

Do you ever wonder what TCADP is up to? TCADP is entering one of the busiest times of the year with opportunities for outreach at many state and regional conferences. See the calendar of events on page 9 for information on how you can participate. You can also check out the Calendar on the TCADP website for current events. (If you are hosting an event and it is not on the calendar, please let us know, so we can help promote it!)

Impending Executions

April

- 22 William Berkley
- 27 Samuel Bustamante

May

- 12 Kevin Varga
- 13 Billy Galloway
- 25 John Alba

June

- 15 David Lee Powell
- 30 Jonathan Green

July

- 1 Michael Perry

Execution Vigils:
<http://www.tcadp.org/index.php?page=vigils>



From the Executive Director

At the annual conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP), which took place in January, countless people approached me to express sympathy for how difficult our work must be in Texas. They told me that they couldn't imagine serving in my position or tackling this issue in Texas, which looms large in their imagination as a place of despair. My response? I told them that while the work in Texas is challenging (to say the least), I happen to have the best job in the abolition movement. Not only do I get to work with the most amazing and dedicated people – including everyone who is reading this newsletter – but I've also witnessed incredible progress toward ending the death penalty in our state. The individuals I have met this year at our annual conference and regional trainings have only confirmed these feelings.

TCADP's theme for 2010 is *Seizing the Momentum: Building Capacity, Community, and Coalition*. This reflects the tremendous shift that has occurred both nationally and here in Texas in the last few years, a **shift toward repeal of the death penalty!**

TCADP's 2008-2013 Strategic Plan aims to strengthen the abolition movement in Texas so as to secure concrete victories in the state legislature. Between now and January 2011, we will build on the momentum generated by our recent successes and make further progress toward achieving our goals, objectives, and actions.

To build capacity, and to demonstrate growing support for abolition, TCADP is working to recruit new members, strengthen our local chapters, cultivate leaders, raise funds, and expand our reach throughout the state.

To build community, TCADP is expanding our online presence and providing opportunities for members to connect with one another through regional trainings, statewide conference calls, and solidarity actions.

To build coalition, TCADP is developing outreach programs for faith communities and civic groups, through which we aim to facilitate their involvement in effecting change at the state legislature. TCADP also seeks to find common ground with non-traditional allies and reach out those with direct experience with the criminal justice system. Specific initiatives aimed at building coalition include engaging in dialogue with murder victims' family members and law enforcement.

As with all growing organizations, TCADP has recently experienced some transitions in leadership at the board level. I am delighted to welcome three new members of the TCADP Board of Directors – Angelle Adams, Mary Heartlein, and Pat Monks – all of whom bring new energy, new skills, new perspectives, and new partners to our organization.

I also want to acknowledge David Atwood and Susybelle Gosslee, who have departed from the Board but will continue to serve the organization in other ways. To honor Dave and his longtime commitment to TCADP, we have established the Dave Atwood Founder's Award, which will be presented as appropriate to those who have made an extraordinary contribution to the movement. Speaking of extraordinary contributions, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Sherry Coombes, who volunteered as TCADP's treasurer/bookkeeper for nearly 10 years and performed countless other vital tasks that kept the organization afloat. Sherry has "retired" from this position but remains involved in the work of the Austin Chapter. I thank Dave, Susybelle, and Sherry for their years of service and dedication to TCADP.

With your ongoing support – and with the infusion of new resources and new people - we will continue to seize the momentum for abolition! (And I'll continue to have the best job in the movement!)

In solidarity,

Kristin Houli

SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

2709 S. Lamar, Blvd, Suite 109
Austin, TX 78704

(512) 441-1808, www.tcadp.org



Newsletter Editor: Vicki McCuiston, info@tcadp.org

Issue #29, Spring 2010 (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)

Contributors: Nancy Bailey, Les Breeding, Wayne Daniel, Kristin Houli, Vicki McCuiston, Demerle Monks, and Rich Woodward

Send your name, address, and phone number with your annual membership dues to the TCADP office to receive quarterly newsletters. All donations are tax-deductible. 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. Thank you!

TCADP Board of Directors Welcomes Three New Members

Page 3, Spring 2010

Angelle Adams.

Angelle is an attorney in Houston, Texas. Her areas of concentration include general civil litigation, third-party insurance defense, construction law, and personal injury cases. Angelle received her Bachelor of Science in Communications from the University of Texas at Austin in 2000 and her Masters in Education from the University of Houston. She received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. Mary's University in 2006.

Angelle is a Board

member of the Houston Lawyers Association and serves as Secretary of the African-American Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Texas. She is also an active member of Amnesty International and participates in Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Angelle is the founding member of The Woodlands Area Chapter of TCADP.



2010 TCADP Board of Directors, pictured L to R: Roger Barnes, Linda White (Vice-President), Pat Monks, Rick Halperin, Les Breeding, Rich Woodward (Secretary), Bob Van Steenburg (President), Angelle Adams, Curt Crum, Nancy Bailey, and Mary Heartlein

Mary Heartlein. Mary Heartlein has 20 years of experience managing volunteers and raising funds for Houston's nonprofit community. Working for Volunteer Houston and at the John P. McGovern Museum of Medical and Health Science (The Health Museum), Mary is dedicated to the nonprofit sector as a means to build community. She values Houston's diverse population and is committed to raising awareness of, and harnessing resources for, the under-served. Her interest in furthering public awareness of social justice issues has grown through her work with teens as a religious education instructor, as a volunteer at Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and through creating volunteer opportunities that target minority teens at Volunteer Houston and The Health Museum. Mary's interest in the death penalty was nurtured by following the work of criminal defense attorneys in the cases of Clarence Brandley and Kerry Max Cook, who were subsequently released from the Texas Death Row.

Pat Monks. Pat, a native Houstonian, has practiced law as a criminal defense attorney for 25 years in Houston and Dallas, Texas. Pat has argued five cases before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and is the founding member of the Municipal Justice Bar Association of Texas. Pat is a board member of the American Prepaid Legal Services Institute, which is a branch of the American Bar Association. He has been associated with the Republican Party since birth - his father Gerald Monks was a long-time Republican Chair in Harris County dating back to the time George H.W. Bush was the county chair. Pat has been the chair of Precinct 718 of Harris County for the past eight years. He has attended almost all of the precinct, senatorial, and State Republican Conventions for the last 20 years and currently serves on the Judicial Candidate Selection Committee of Harris County. Members of his family have run for office many times as judge, district attorney, city council and school board member. He is a firm believer of getting involved in politics. Pat Monks is a conservative Republican who believes the death penalty is fundamentally flawed: "I don't see how we as a people can legislatively give another man the right to kill in God's name."

Check out the TCADP website! www.tcadp.org

Would you like to receive TCADP email alerts? Look for the "Subscribe" button on the TCADP home page, www.tcadp.org.

The TCADP Annual Conference, held February 20, 2010 at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas served as a great opportunity to build on the theme of the panel discussion, "Building Capacity, Community and Coalition: Framing the Message for Key Constituencies." The conference panel and workshops were developed to help TCADP members and supporters implement on a local level the lessons learned from successes across the country, which include widening the death penalty movement to include law enforcement, murder victims' family members, and conservatives. The panel discussion featured Richard Dieter, Death Penalty Information Center; Prof. Mark Osler, Baylor University Law School; Linda White, member, Murder Victim's Families for Reconciliation; and Michael Landauer (moderator), *Dallas Morning News* Editorial Staff.

Linda White told her own story of the loss of her daughter and about approaching murder victims' family members with sensitivity and sincerity: "The death penalty is not good for victim family members, as it holds them hostage until the execution. There is no such thing as closure."

Mark Osler, professor at Baylor Law School, spoke about his experiences with his book - *Jesus on Death Row*, which tries Jesus using the Texas criminal justice system. Prof. Osler has been very successful in speaking to conservative faith communities and moving their perspectives on the death penalty.

Richard Dieter, ED of the Death Penalty Information Center (Washington, DC) spoke about the polling that DPIC conducted, in which police chiefs ranked the death penalty last in importance for helping law enforcement and preventing crime. Read DPIC's recent report on the poll and cost of the death penalty at <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/CostsRptFinal.pdf>.

Major themes we learned throughout the day included:

•Progress is being made on restricting the use of the death penalty across the country and in Texas! Multiple legislatures across the U.S. are making progress towards repealing the death penalty, and Texas new death sentences have dropped 60% in the last 5 years.

•There is a strategy to end the death penalty in Texas - local members are necessary for its implementation.

•The death penalty should not be a partisan issue.

•As we widen the movement to include non-traditional partners we must remember that the only issue we may agree on is ending the death penalty. This is okay, because we want to end the death penalty!

•Because we may only agree on the issue of the death penalty, we must focus our dialogue and our work with non-traditional partners, and not get distracted by other topics.

•We must be sensitive in labeling people and questioning the motives of people - after all, we want them to join us!

•This also means we must use inclusive language, and avoid divisive language.

The conference served as a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Texas death penalty, national trends, and the tools needed to be successful in Texas for ending the death penalty.

Plans are already underway for the 2011 TCADP Annual Conference. See you in Austin on February 19, 2011 at the Schmidt—Jones Family Life Center of First United Methodist Church (downtown)!

facebook

TCADP

2/20/10

[Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty - TCADP](#) just heard from the TCADP Award Winners: Judge Charlie Baird - Courage, Father Mark Miller - Courage, and Ron Carlson - Appreciation. Such amazing remarks from truly courageous people with incredible integrity. Rep Lon Burnham presented the awards and spoke of the importance of doing electoral work and making this an electoral issue.

[Sigrid Walsh](#) It was my first conference and it was very rewarding.

[Paula Woodruff Keeth](#) It was a great conference. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. The panel speakers and workshop presenters provided useful suggestions on how to make our activism more effective. Thanks again!

[Mark Osler](#) My favorite audience in a long time, and I loved getting to meet so many wonderful people!

[Anne Hargrave Mund](#) I thought the conference on Saturday was excellent. Hats off to Kristin, Bob, Vicki, and all the others who helped make it happen. I'm renewed and inspired.....

[Ron Carlson](#) Just wanted to say "Thank You" to everyone involved in TCADP. The conference was great. And a personal thanks to all who made it happen. Everyone involved is a big inspiration in my life.

[Alexandra Torres](#) The conference was great! Good job TCADP!!!

A Matter of Life or Death by Demerle Monks

Page 5, Spring 2010

Ten minutes can change a mind. That's all it took to change my mind about the death penalty in Texas. My mind had been changed by a bright happy cheerful woman crying in front of me, but not just me but hundreds of us. This woman had suffered through a lot with the murder of her dear little girl, and through trying to save the three young boys who'd done this terrible crime off of death row. After hearing this sweet soul say "I'm against the death penalty," that's all it took, and I'll never think otherwise.

I heard all of this at a conference in Dallas, Texas. It was not even a year ago; just a few months ago, and yet it has shaped my life up to this very day. My father had driven to

this conference wanting me to hear the stories and feel the emotions from the people who have suffered through watching the souls who have been on death row for over 30 years just waiting for the day that they hope to see their Jesus in heaven.

People change on death row. These people are not terrible but when waiting for their fate they have time to think and go over and over what they had done that has led them into jail 22 hours 7 days a week.

Why has this one event shaped my life to who I am today?

The people on death row are the true ones who have opened my eyes. When I leave to walk down to the bus stop every morning I make sure I say bye to

my mother, my father, and my little brother and for them to "Have a good Day". I want to appreciate them more each day, because there are children who have parents or family on death row right now, and they don't get to see them very much or spend time with them, but knowing I see my parents every single day it makes me feel good to know I have them in my life. Every day at school I try to say hello to everyone I see in the halls I know, and to appreciate them as I do my family just to let them know I care. People have lost best friends to other peoples' actions, and they have tried to save the people who have killed their friends knowing they wouldn't have wanted another soul to be

broken down and landing on death row, and after all the years of hope their life is taken away from them.

The thing that has really shaped my life from this conference is looking forward and living my life to the fullest, and never turning it away by being dumb or doing wrong with my actions. People have thrown their lives away, and that's something I'll never do, and I'll make sure my family and friends won't give up theirs as others have.

My life has shaped me to who I am today and the conference was big part in shaping it.

This article was originally written for the Clear Lake Middle School newspaper. Demerle is 13 and in the 7th grade.

2010 TCADP Conference Pictures

More pictures at www.tcadp.org



Awards: 1: Ron Carlson, 2: Father Mark Miller with presenter Rep. Lon Burnham, 3: Judge Charlie Baird



Top: Kristin Houlé addresses conference.
Bottom: Working with the media workshop



Panel: Dick Dieter, Linda White, Mark Osler, Michael Landauer

Regional Trainings Underway!

TCADP has conducted 3 regional trainings since the beginning of 2010, hosting trainings in Wimberley for Austin, San Antonio, and Hill Country members; in Weslaco for Rio Grande Valley members; and in El Paso for El Paso and Odessa members. These day-long trainings provide information about the goals and objectives of TCADP's Strategic Plan, particularly as they relate to the 2011 Legislative Session. The training staff also work with participants to develop local action plans that advance TCADP's collective efforts.

The trainings include sessions on the following topics:

- Membership recruitment and retention
- Outreach to victims' family members, faith communities, civic groups, and law enforcement
- Legislative advocacy
- Fundraising
- Event planning

Through this training, TCADP aims to: strengthen the skills of local members; cultivate new leaders; foster connections among members and enhance your sense of solidarity as a statewide movement; and support the goals and ob-

jectives of the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan by developing local action plans.

Two more regional trainings are planned for 2010: East Texas – May 22 (Houston) and North Texas (Dallas/Ft. Worth). The trainings are completely free with breakfast snacks and lunch provided. Transportation costs can also be reimbursed.

The trainings have been well received and have provided a great opportunity for local networking and true activity and outreach development. In fact, the South Texas training resulted in the creation of a TCADP Brownsville chapter!

Here are some comments from participants:

"I got a clear sense of TCADP strategy and advocacy coaching."

"Learned new things regarding the death penalty in Texas and nationally."

"Lots of good information."

"Great Use of a Saturday!"

"Very well organized and informative!"

"Good sharing, planning time."

Book Review: *Autobiography of an Execution* by David Dow



Early in his latest book, David Dow tells the story of one Halloween night when he fought until late in the evening to save the life of one of his clients on death row. Finally, as the clock wound near 9 p.m., the Supreme Court denied the lawyers' last appeal. Dow left his office and drove home to find his wife with red eyes staring at a muted television. She had just put to bed their young son who had sadly waited up late for his father who failed to fulfill the promised trip to a haunted house. She looked Dow in the face and said, "Your clients are not the only people who need you."

Autobiography of an Execution is the story of how David Dow has fought to save his clients and how he himself is repeatedly saved by his family. It is a personal tale of a death penalty attorney as he struggles to maintain his sanity while facing a crazy system of criminal justice. If the book were fiction, it would be a great story. But it is not fiction, it is instead a sad enumeration of the failures of Texas' system of criminal justice, based on the real experiences of a death row attorney.

For those of us who are opposed to the death penalty, *Autobiography of an Execution* provides confirmation of what we already know: that the death penalty system is full of problems - attorneys who don't do their job, judges who are quick to decide the fate of the men and women in their system, and especially a system of justice that stacks the deck against anyone who ends up in its grip. But I think the book will be most enlightening to those who have not made up their minds about the death penalty. Such readers would be particularly open to the book not only because of his engaging prose and personal anecdotes, but because Dow is openly respectful of a variety of opinions on the death penalty. He is not a preacher trying to save the sinners, but is a teacher who provides the evidence of the death penalty's faults and lets the reader make up his or her own mind. I encourage everyone to buy a copy for themselves and then to give their book to a friend of relative who is not yet convinced.

A final note, *Autobiography of an Execution* is also available in audio and is read by the author. It is an excellent audio production. So as an alternative to a hard copy, consider listening to this book on your next long trip.

- Rich Woodward, TCADP Board Secretary



PEOPLE OF FAITH AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

SAVE THE DATE:
November 16 & 17, 2010
People of Faith Against the Death Penalty's National Conference
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Sr. Helen Prejean,
Honorary Chair

Who should attend:

- You!
- Your pastor and staff
- Senior clergy and staff of religious judicatory bodies and associations
- Clergy
- Death penalty abolition activists
- Your friends and colleagues

The first national interfaith conference on religious action on the death penalty held in the United States this century.

Sponsored by People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, this seminal conference will be held at Emory University's Conference Center Hotel .

The conference is part of a new effort to help the abolition movement build new levels of support among religious communities across the country.

More info: <http://www.pfadp.org//> under the "National Conference" button

Death Row Prisoners Donate Art for Scholarships

Proceeds from all artwork go to award college scholarships for family members of murder victims. Send original artwork to:

Art for Scholarships
Compassion

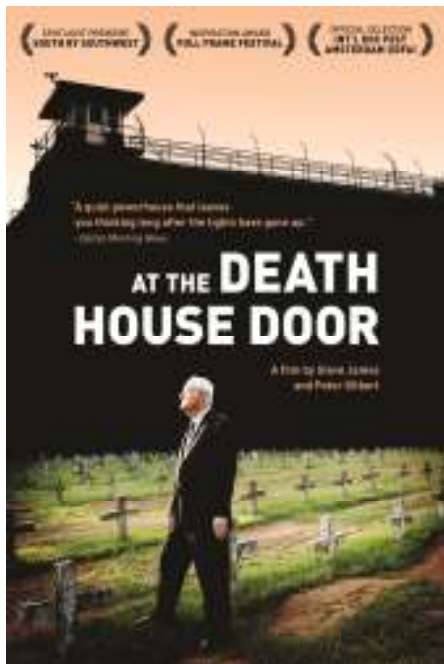
140 W South Boundary St.
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Scholarships for immediate family members of murder victims:

To obtain an application call (419) 874-1333, ask for Compassion's office or visit the website at

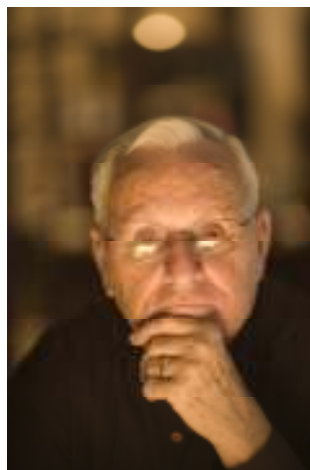
compassionondeathrow.org

Nominated to the Short List of the Academy Awards and Winner of 40 National & International Awards.

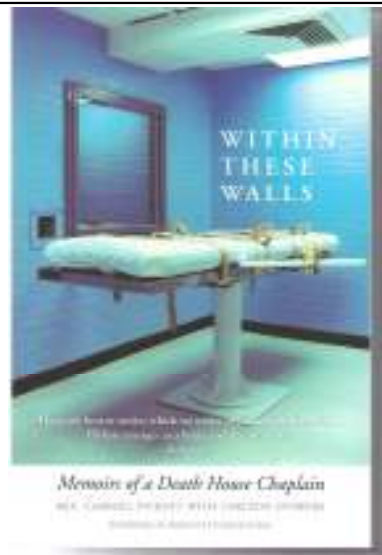


DVD Price: \$25.00

To order, mail check plus \$4.50 for postage to:
Carroll Pickett
102 Fairway View Lane
Montgomery, TX 77356
carrollpickett@gmail57.com



Rev. Carroll L. Pickett



Rev. Pickett's gripping account of his ministry to 2200 inmates, above and beyond his work on death row.

Book Price: \$15.00

EL PASOANS AGAINST THE DEATH

PENALTY... March 13 was a red-letter day for members of the El Paso and Odessa chapters of TCADP. That was the day of TCADP's West Texas Regional Training.

Kristin Houlé, TCADP's executive director, and Les Breeding, a TCADP board member and former legislative director, gave a full day of enlightening presentations in a downtown Holiday Inn in El Paso. The day's events gave opportunities for Odessans and El Pasoans to get acquainted with one another and to learn more about what the state organization is doing. There was also time for groups to begin making concrete plans for the months that remain in 2010.

Viki Elkey and Lisa Cisneros representing New Mexico and Colorado anti-death penalty organizations also attended and shared useful information.

EPADP hosted a meeting on March 22 to follow-up on the local action plan developed during the regional training which included the following goals:

1. Recruiting and retraining members
2. Education
3. Clergy sign-on letter support
4. Raise money for TCADP (TCADP offers financial support to EPADP).



Sister Helen Prejean signing books at the University of Houston Downtown event.

Great Job! St Phillip's Catholic Church in Lewisville, TX hosted Sister Helen Prejean March 8 and sent in TCADP Sign-Me-Up forms for 40 new people!

Print the form for your next event:
<http://tcadp.org/uploads/documents/SignMeUp.pdf>

Chapters (C) and Regional Reps (RR)

STATE OFFICE—Austin

(512) 441-1808
 info@tcadp.org

Amarillo (RR) Eileen Dolan

amarillo@tcadp.org

Austin (C)

Bob Van Steenburg
 austin@tcadp.org

Beaumont (C) Bob Gazaway

beaumont@tcadp.org

Brazos Valley (C)

Athena Griffith
 collegestation@tcadp.org

Corpus Christi (C)

Jeanne Adams
 corpuschristi@tcadp.org

Dallas (C) Rick Halperin

dallas@tcadp.org

El Paso (C) Wayne Daniel

elpaso@tcadp.org

Ft. Worth (RR) Curt Crum

ftworth@tcadp.org

Houston (C) Nancy Bailey

houston@tcadp.org

Huntsville (C) James Moore

huntsville@tcadp.org

Laredo (RR) Sr. Rose Marie

Tresp laredo@tcadp.org

Lubbock (C) Vince Gonzales

lubbock@tcadp.org

Odessa (C) Father Mark

Miller odessa@tcadp.org

Rio Grande Valley (C)

Sylvia Garza
 riogrande@tcadp.org

San Angelo (RR)

sanangelo@tcadp.org

San Antonio (C)

Roger Barnes
 sanantonio@tcadp.org

The Woodlands (C)

Angelle Adams
 thewoodlands@tcadp.org

Victoria (C)

Rev. Wanda Ritchea
 victoria@tcadp.org

Waco (RR) Russell Doncouse

waco@tcadp.org

INTERNATIONAL

Sandrine Ageorges
 international@tcadp.org

(Please call the state office if you need a contact phone number or check the chapter page on the TCADP website.)



Bob Van Steenburg speaking at the South Texas Regional Training in Weslaco.

April

- 4 Odessa Chapter Meeting, 4 PM
- 9-10 UT Law Capital Punishment Seminar
http://utdirect.utexas.edu/localn/evnt.WBX?calendar_id=201004094716
- 17 4th Annual Paisano Festival*, Rio Grande City, 12PM-6PM
http://www.mcallen.net/calendar/event/2010-04-17/4th_annual_paisano_festival.aspx
- 17-18 Houston International Festival*, downtown Houston, 12PM-10PM - <http://www.ifest.org/>
- 19 Huntsville Chapter Meeting, 7PM
- 21 Austin Chapter Meeting 11:30AM; Dallas Chapter Meeting 7PM
- 22 Execution - William Berkley
- 27 Execution- Samuel Bustamante

May

- 2 Odessa Chapter Meeting, 4PM
- 12 Execution - Kevin Varga
- 13 Execution - Billy Galloway
- 15 TCADP Board Meeting
- 17 Huntsville Chapter Meeting, 7PM
- 19 Austin Chapter Meeting, 11:30AM; Dallas Chapter Meeting, 7PM
- 22 East Texas Regional Training, University of St Thomas, Houston - register online at <http://tcadp.org/index.php?page=regional-training>
- 25 Execution - John Alba
- 30-2 Annual Conference of Texas Conference United Methodist Church (UMC)*; The Woodlands-
<http://www.txcumc.org/pages/detail/1093>

June

- 2-5 Annual Conference of Southwest Texas Conference of UMC*; Corpus Christi: <http://www.umcswtx.org/annual-conference?num=17418389>
- 2-6 Texas League of United Latin American Citizens Conference; Austin <http://www.tx-lulac.org/convention10.htm>
- 3-6 Austin Pride Festival* <http://www.austinpride2010.org/>
- 6 Odessa Chapter Meeting, 4PM
- 10-12 Annual Conference of Rio Grande Conference of UMC*, San Antonio
<http://www.riograndeconference.org/index.php>
- 11-12 Annual Conference of Northwest Texas Conference UMC*, Lubbock- <http://www.nwtxconf.org/>
- 11 Republican Party of Texas 2010 Convention, Dallas
<http://www.texasgop.org/event.asp?artid=119>
- 16 Austin Chapter Meeting, 11:30AM; Dallas Chapter Meeting, 7PM
- 21 Huntsville Chapter Meeting, 7PM
- 25-26 Democratic Party of Texas 2010 Convention*, Corpus Christi-<http://www.txdemocrats.org/2010-Convention/>
- 28-2 Starvin' for Justice: Annual Fast and Vigil; Washington, D.C. <http://www.abolition.org/fastandvigil/index.html>
- 30 Execution - Jonathan Green

*** Denotes opportunities in the Spring for volunteers to oversee tables and booths. Please contact TCADP's Austin Office at (512) 441-1808 or info@tcadp.org if you are interested in working at any of the events listed above! More details are available at www.tcadp.org.**

Vigil Locations <http://tcadp.org/index.php?page=vigils>

Huntsville (Location of Executions) (Site 1) Corner of 12th and Ave. I (in front of Walls Unit) at 5:15 p.m. (Site 2) Sam Houston State University—Bearkats for Life

Austin (Site 1) - On Congress at 11 St., 5:30 - 6:30 pm, **(Site 2)** - Prayer vigil at St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church on Oltorf and Congress at 6:00pm (approx 20 minutes)

Beaumont Diocese of Beaumont, Diocesan Pastoral Office, 703 Archie St.@ 4:00 p.m. on the day of an execution.

Brownsville 802 and Paredes Lane from 4:30 -5:30PM

College Station 5:30 to 6 PM, east of Texas A&M campus at the corner of Walton and Texas Ave. across the street from the main entrance.

Corpus Christi Sisters Of Incarnate Word Convent, 2930 Alameda, 6:00 pm

Cuero At Gazebo on Main Street , next to Library, 5:45 PM. Public Invited. For information call 361-676-2921

Dallas SMU Catholic Center at the corner of University Blvd. and Airline Rd., starting at 6 p.m.

El Paso 6:00pm Saint Patrick Cathedral, 1118 N Mesa St

Ganado At Assumption Catholic Church Pro-Life Monument, 5:45 PM. Public invited. For information call 361-771-3325.

Houston Rotating Locations... April, May, and June will be at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main Street, Houston, 77004, which is on the corner of Binz. (5:30 to 6:20 PM)

Lewisville St Phillip the Apostle Catholic Church, 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00pm, 1897 West Main

Lubbock St. John's United Methodist Church, 1501 University Ave., 5:30 to 6:30PM

McAllen In front of The Monitor, corner of Nolana and Jackson at 5:30PM

McKinney St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Community located at 110 St. Gabriel Way, the last Sunday of the month, following the 11:00 mass to remember those scheduled for execution in the following month, as well as the victims of their crimes and family members on both sides.

Odessa Public vigil takes place from 5:00 to 5:30 PM in front of St. Joseph Catholic Parish, 907 S. Dixie, Odessa 79761. Prayer takes place inside the church from 5:30 to 6:00 PM. All are welcome. The church phone number is 432-337-2213.

San Antonio (Site 1) - Archdiocese of San Antonio, in the St. Joseph Chapel at the Chancery, 2718 W. Woodlawn Ave. (1 mile east of Bandera Rd.) at 11:30 a.m. on the day of execution. Broadcast on Catholic Television of San Antonio (Time-Warner cable channel 15) at 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the day of execution. **(Site 2)** - Main Plaza across from Bexar County Courthouse and San Fernando Cathedral - Noon **(Site 3)** - Join the Sisters of Divine Providence and friends in vigil and prayer from 6:00 - 6:30 pm on Texas execution days in front of Our Lady of the Lake Convent by the large crucifix. 515 S.W. 24th Street.

Spring Prayer Vigil at 6 PM on evenings of executions at St Edward Catholic Community, 2601 Spring Stuebner Rd, Spring, TX 77389 for the murder victim, for family and friends of the murder victim, the prison guards and correctional officers, for the family of the condemned man/woman, for the man/woman to be executed and to an end to the death penalty.

Victoria At Incarnate Word Convent, 5:45 PM. Public Invited. For information call 361-575-7111.

Although the Texas Legislature does not meet again until January, 2011, the TCADP Legislative Committee (Bob Van Steenburg, Les Breeding, Kristin Houlé, and the newest member, Pat Monks) has been hard at work.

The committee has assisted the TCADP director, Kristin Houlé, with the Regional Trainings hosted in Central Texas, South Texas, and El Paso by providing a legislative overview and training to learn about advocacy.

You might be asking.... What can we do since the Legislature is not in Session? Good question! Actually this is a very important time to advocate for repeal for the death penalty. During the Session, there is so much work occurring during the 140-day session that it is easy for TCADP's message to get lost. It is actually much easier to get your Legislator's attention right now.

We encourage you to make several contacts as we move into Spring:

- Contact Rep. Jessica Farrar to thank her for sponsoring our bill (H.B. 682) and being our champion.
- Contact Reps. Edwards, Burnam, Marquez for co-sponsoring our bill.
- Contact your representative to ask him/her to support the TCADP bill to repeal the death penalty when it is filed next session.

These three actions are very important. As we move closer to the beginning of the next Session in January, 2011, additional important actions will be outlined.

Legislator Contact Info.

Representative _____
PO Box 2910,
Austin, TX 78768

Rep. Jessica Farrar
512.463.0620 713.691.6812
Jessica.Farrar@house.state.tx.us

Rep. Lon Burnam
512.463.0740 817.924.1997
Lon.Burnam@house.state.tx.us

Rep. Al Edwards
512.463.0528
Al.Edwards@house.state.tx.us

Rep. Marisa Marquez
512.463.0638
Marisa.Marquez@house.state.tx.us

If you do not know your Representative or Senator, you can find out who they are at: www.capitol.texas.tx.us.

Member Spotlight...

Cindy Johnson Brownsville, TX



How did you come to be against the death penalty?

I was taught as a child that all people are children of God.

How did you learn about TCADP?

From friends Joe and Jean of Brownsville, Texas

What are your expectations in becoming a member of TCADP for yourself?

Support and work to abolish the death penalty in Texas.

What do you think is standing in the way of ending the death penalty in Texas?

Politics.

What is the most compelling argument for you that the death penalty is wrong?

Lots of flaws in the process. Cost, stands of most faith based-groups.

What other societal issues concern you?

immigration policy

What other organizations are you a member of?

United Methodist Women, United Methodist Deaconess, El Buen Pastor Methodist Church and Founder of Blessingexchange.org

What are your gifts, hobbies, and areas of expertise?

Reading and working on justice issues.



Thank You for Your Generous Support

TCADP thanks the following individuals & organizations for their generous contributions in the past quarter (December 18, 2009 – March 16, 2010). Your financial assistance is critical to all of the activities and events described in this newsletter! Please let us know if we have inadvertently left you (or your spouse) off of this list. We apologize in advance if we missed anyone.

Angelle Adams
Sandrine Ageorges
Janice Ahmad
Jan Anderson
Kay Arnold
Dave Atwood
Carol and Chuck Bayens
Roger Berger
Richard Best
Tom Biddle and Claudia Morgan
William Bleecker
Rosemary Bramuchi
Carolyn Britton
Ron Brown
Art Browning
Raymond J. Campion
Barry D Clar
Katheryn S. Clark
Marjan Cochez
Lori Contella and Amy O'Sullivan
Karel R Dahmen
John Dauer
John L. Diener
Carol C Donovan
Jim and Wanda Donovan
Timothy Dubbs
Martha Eberle
Fr. Martin Elsner
Jean Fox
Emily Gatsos
Bob and Sharon Gazaway
Anne Geyer
Roger Gibeault
Lee Greenwood-Rollins
Susan Gries
Clayton Hall
Dr Henry Hare
Rebecca M. Hogan
Judith Harris
Richard and Susan Kent
Richard Kim
Drusilla L. Kutka
Sheva Kuvet
Kay and Alan Leonard
Jane Lindsay
Rev Anthony Lorenzen
Vincent Maggio
Bonnie Mallott
Dr Diane Lawson Martinez

Patricia Medina Matthews
Mary Liz Maxwell
Deborah and Arnold Michalewicz
Ruth Milburn
Fr. Mark Miller
Beverly Mishler
Beatrice Mladenka-Fowler
Eamonn Mulchrone
Anne Mund
Dr Alan Northcutt
Anne Norvell
Sally Norvell
Ursula Nowicki
Anita Ochsner
Scott Partridge
Patricia and Morris Roberts
Frances A. Payn
George and Estela Phillips
Rev. Carroll and Jane Pickett
Alice Ponseti
Nancy Price
Yvonne Pugh
Marie L. A. Racine
Sr. Esperanza Razura
Kelly Reid
John Reiser
Mike Renquist
George Ricker
Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger
Ken and Lois Robison
Kurt Rosenberg
Gordon Sanford
Robert Schuwerk
Laura Seipp
Hilary Sheard
Jennifer Simmons
Annette Spanhel
Jon St. Clair
Richard Steele and Mary McKerall
Denise E. Stout
Sam Summerlin
Carol Tures
Gabriele Uhl
Bob and Jean Van Steenburg
S. George Vincentnathan
Martha A. Whitehead
Beth Williamson
Daesene Willmann
Bishop Joe Wilson

Tom Windberg
Paul Woodruff
Rich Woodward
Sara L. Young

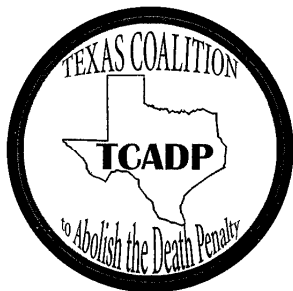
Comune Di Reggio Emilia
The Congregation of the Sisters of
Charity of the Incarnate Word,
Houston
Diocese of Beaumont



TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

2709 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78704
(512) 441-1808

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Permit # 882
Austin, TX



If there is no date on your address label or a date prior to 04/01/2010 please take the time to renew your membership or become a new member. See below for membership form.

Search for TCADP on Facebook and become a fan!

JOIN TODAY!

Your TCADP Membership supports the education and outreach efforts of TCADP. We cannot do this work without you!

Yes, I want to help TCADP increase the strength of the abolition movement in Texas!

_____ \$15.00 Student/Fixed Income Annual Member

_____ \$40.00 Annual Individual Member

_____ \$60.00 Annual Household Member

_____ \$100.00 Annual Organization Member

_____ \$250.00 Annual 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 house party in my area with support from TCADP.