



FALL 2010

Seizing the Momentum

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Anthony Graves: Almost A Gross Miscarriage of Justice

Anthony Graves is accused of murdering six people, four of them children, in Somerville, Texas in 1992. He has maintained his innocence since his arrest.

Under pressure to name an accomplice in the slaying of Bobbie Davis, her daughter, and her four grandchildren, Robert Carter (the father of one of the slain children), identified Graves, who he barely knew. Reporter Pamela Colloff documents in great detail in her article, "Innocence Lost" (October 2010, *Texas Monthly*) the ensuing events of how Graves was tried and ultimately sentenced to death along with Carter.

There is no physical evidence linking Graves to the crime, and no motive. The sole witness against him, Robert Carter - who confessed to and was executed for the murders in 2000 - re-canted his testimony against Graves three days after his arrest, and again and again through the years, including while strapped to the gurney in the death chamber.

The case of Anthony Graves is one more example of the flawed Texas criminal justice system. Faulty eye-witness identification techniques, lack of recorded interrogation by police officers, junk science, and the political pressure to "catch the killer", combined with substandard indigent defense, all led to his conviction despite the lack of any evidence linking him to the crime. In fact, Graves had three alibi witnesses who could confirm he was present in his mother's apartment at the time the crime took place.

In 2002, the Innocence Project became aware of Grave's case and has worked with him to ensure he has access to legal representation as well as a fair trial where key evidence, such as a deposition from Carter confessing that he had lied about Grave's involvement in the case, will be considered.

The Bureson County District Attorney's office could have dropped all charges against Anthony Graves after the 5th Circuit ruling, but instead held him in a county jail for four years awaiting retrial. Bureson County planned to seek the death penalty again for Anthony Graves in February 2011, but stunningly dropped all charges and released Anthony Graves on October 27, 2010 declaring him innocent and wrongfully convicted after an extensive investigation. (Online newsletter version updated to reflect these recent developments.)

Read Pamela Colloff's article "Innocence Lost" in *Texas Monthly* at:
<http://www.texasmonthly.com/2010-10-01/feature2.php?1286046647#>

Download a fact sheet at www.tcadp.org "Get Informed - Wrongful Convictions".

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21 Larry Wooten

December

1 Steven Staley

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"Get Involved - Stop Executions"



From the Executive Director

Dear Members and Supporters,

It's another busy fall for TCADP! Whether you live in El Paso, Houston, Dallas, or Austin (or somewhere in between), there's no shortage of compelling death penalty-related events to engage your interest and participation. Of particular note is the recent speaker's tour with Juan Melendez in El Paso, the series "Death Penalty Matters" at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and the North Texas Regional Leadership Training. Read about these events on pages 7-8 and check out the calendar of upcoming events on page 9.



In addition to organizing these activities, TCADP is actively preparing for the 2011 Texas Legislative Session, during which we will again seek to secure support for repealing the death penalty and for strategic reform efforts. Of course, before we get to the session, we'll be keeping a close eye on the results of statewide elections. TCADP is a 501(c)(3) organization, which means that we cannot take a position on any candidate running for office. What we can do, however, is encourage you to learn where the candidates stand on issues that are important to you, including the death penalty. In addition to researching the positions of those running for Governor or the State Senate and State House of Representatives, find out about the candidates for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, your local district judges, and district attorney. All of these elected officials play a central role in determining who lives and dies in Texas (district attorneys decide whether to pursue a death sentence in capital murder cases, district judges set execution dates, and the Court of Criminal Appeals considers state-level appeals).

Just as there is no shortage of educational events on the death penalty, there seems to be no shortage of cases that call into question the reliability and fairness of our state's criminal justice system. Despite multiple attempts to derail and dilute the Texas Forensic Science Commission's investigation into the case of Cameron Todd Willingham, the quest to answer questions of whether faulty evidence was used to convict and execute him -- and whether misconduct was involved -- continues. Recent criticism of the commission has focused on members' reliance on written reports rather than direct engagement and questioning of forensic experts, including the expert they hired specifically to investigate this case, Dr. Craig Beyler. On November 19, 2010 the commission will hold a special meeting with invited experts... a meeting that originally was scheduled to take place in October of 2009. In the meantime, the program *Frontline*, which airs on PBS, will examine the Willingham case on October 19 (check your local listings for "Death by Fire").

Another case garnering national attention involves Anthony Graves, featured on page 1. I urge you to read the bone-chilling account of this case in the October issue of *Texas Monthly* magazine and then pass it on to everyone you know.

Thank you for everything you do to ensure the names and faces of Cameron Todd Willingham, Anthony Graves, and so many others remain in the public eye and on the radar of our elected officials. With your steadfast support, we will continue to raise awareness of these fatal flaws in the system and demand the end of the death penalty.

In solidarity,

Kristin Hauke



TCADP Seizing the Momentum

TCADP Seizing the Momentum is published quarterly by the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the only statewide grassroots organization working to end the death penalty in Texas through education, outreach and advocacy.

Subscription Information: *TCADP Seizing the Momentum* is distributed to TCADP members and allies. To find out more about the organization and become a member, visit our website at www.tcadp.org.

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(Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)

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Anita Grabowski

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Become a Partner for Justice Today!

As the only statewide grassroots membership organization working to end the death penalty in Texas, TCADP depends on the generous financial support of individuals, households, and organizations who believe in our mission and our activities. We are excited to announce the launch of a new online donation system that makes it easier and more secure than ever to contribute to TCADP! Through our new **Partners for Justice Program** supporters can set up recurring donations to be repeated every month, quarter, or year and linked automatically to a credit card or checking account. One-time gifts and annual membership dues remain options for giving as well.

Anyone who signs up for a recurring donation (minimum \$10 on a quarterly basis) will be considered a Partner for Justice and will be acknowledged in TCADP's annual conference program and quarterly newsletter. What's more, for every new Partner of Justice who signs up between now and November 15, 2010 a group of anonymous donors has agreed to make a bonus contribution of \$50 to TCADP (up to a maximum of \$1,000). Take advantage of this generous offer today!

TCADP also is pleased to offer thank-you gifts to donors who contribute at a level of \$200 and above (either one-time or as part of a recurring donation within a year). These gifts include books from notable authors, including Rev. Carroll Pickett and Joan Cheever, or a private phone conversation with a prominent abolitionist.

With your assistance, TCADP is seizing the momentum for abolition. We encourage you to show your steadfast support for TCADP by taking advantage of this secure new system and becoming a Partner for Justice. Just go to www.tcadp.org and click on "Donate" to get started!

Thanks to TCADP's Donor Development Committee for their hard work on creating this program!

Make a difference.
DONATE



TCADP Gains New Team Member!

TCADP is thrilled to welcome Anita Grabowski, who is the new Texas State Campaign Coordinator for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP). Anita began serving in this new position on September 13, 2010 and is based in Austin. She will be working hand-in-hand with TCADP to fulfill the goals and objectives of our strategic plan and to strengthen our grassroots movement in Texas.

Previously, Anita was an organizer at the Center for Community Change, where she worked with grassroots organizing groups around the country to strengthen local organizing efforts and to build collaborative federal policy campaigns. She also co-founded the Mississippi Poultry Workers Center and collaborated on community-union organizing campaigns across the South. In addition to her organizing work, Anita has partnered with her husband, director John Fiege, on several films, including, *Mississippi Chicken*, a 90-minute documentary about the lives and struggles of Latin American immigrants recruited to work in Mississippi's poultry processing plants. The film was nominated for a Gotham Award in 2007. Anita holds a Masters degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelors degree from New York University. You can reach her at anita@ncadp.org.

TCADP would like to express its sincere appreciation to the National Coalition for making this investment in Texas and for helping to increase our staff capacity 100%!

"I am really excited to be working with TCADP to end the death penalty in Texas! For the last couple of years I have been doing grassroots organizing on national policy campaigns, and now I'm looking forward to bringing this experience back home to Texas. I see organizing to end the death penalty as part of my personal and professional commitment to work toward greater integrity, fairness and compassion in our communities."

— Anita Grabowski



More info:
kairosconference.org

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

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

TCADP Seeks Faith Leaders for Interfaith Sign-On Letter

This past spring, TCADP began circulating an interfaith sign-on letter that expresses opposition to the death penalty. Ordained clergy, retired clergy, deacons, nuns, rabbis, monks, and leaders of peace/humanist churches who live in Texas are all eligible to sign.

Please contact Vicki McCuiston at info@tcadp.org or 512.441.1808 to receive a copy of the letter and instructions on how to submit signatures to TCADP.

Thank you for sharing this opportunity with your local clergy.



Recent Texas Death Penalty Developments (as of October 12, 2010)

- So far in 2010, the State of Texas has carried out 16 executions (out of 38 executions nationwide). Three more executions are scheduled through December.
- Texas juries have determined six new death sentences to date in 2010, from Brazos, Dallas, Harris Rusk, Nueces, and Travis Counties. In three cases, juries have rejected the death penalty:

- ⇒ In June, a jury in Brazoria County rejected the death penalty for Nicholas-Michael Edwin Jean and sentenced him to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the capital murder of Susana Puente De Jesus, who had been carjacked in Pearland on Feb. 2, 2009. According to the *Houston Chronicle*, "Jurors said that given his age [of 22], the sentence was seen as a harsher penalty for Jean than a death sentence, which could have been carried out in the vicinity of a dozen years." ("Jury spares killer's life in carjacking-slaying," June 26, 2010)
- ⇒ In October, a Bexar County jury rejected the death penalty for Keith Evans, who was convicted of the capital murder of Mohammed "Moe" Omar during a failed robbery attempt of a convenience store in San Antonio. Evans had admitted his guilt in the attempted robbery and murder, but testified that he had not intended to shoot and kill Mr. Omar.

2010 New Death Sentences: 6

A Brazoria County jury rejects death for life without parole, considering it a harsher sentence.

Executions: 16, representing 42% nationwide

- On October 13, 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case of Texas death row inmate Hank Skinner (*Skinner v. Switzer*). The Court will consider whether Skinner can pursue his request for DNA testing under the Civil Rights Act. Critical pieces of evidence gathered at the crime scene have never been tested. The Court stayed Hank Skinner's execution on March 24, 2010 as he was finishing his last meal.
- This summer, the Timothy Cole Advisory Panel on Wrongful Convictions concluded its work to study the prevention of wrongful convictions. The panel was established by the state legislature in 2009 and named in memory of Timothy Cole, who died in prison while serving time for a crime he did not commit. Cole was later exonerated by DNA evidence; he received a posthumous pardon from Texas Governor Rick Perry in March of 2010. More than 40 people in Texas have been exonerated based on DNA evidence – more than any other state. According to experts, mistaken eyewitness identification is the leading cause of wrongful conviction.

On August 15, 2010 the advisory panel approved a package of recommendations aimed at safeguarding against wrongful convictions. These include:

- ⇒ Recording custodial interrogations
- ⇒ Developing formal procedures and guidelines for eyewitness identification
- ⇒ Adopting a discovery policy that is mandatory, automatic, and reciprocal
- ⇒ Providing greater access to post-conviction DNA testing

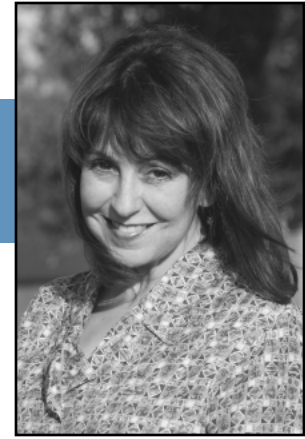
According to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "the 11-member commission backed away from recommending the creation of a statewide innocence commission armed with subpoena powers but instead called for augmenting the work of state-funded innocence projects at four public universities: Texas Tech, the University of Houston, the University of Texas at Austin and Texas Southern University."

To stay up to date on all developments with the death penalty in Texas, visit the TCADP blog -- www.tcadp.org/blog

-- or become a fan of TCADP on Facebook!



"If you haven't walked the walk, you don't know the searing pain and anguish that radiates from the heart to every aspect of your daily life." - Helene Burns



Helene Burns was never the same after she received a phone call one afternoon from her brother while she was at work.

Her brother, Richard, called her, began to speak, then halted. An officer then got on the phone and told Helene that there had been an accident at her mother's home. Helene immediately went to her brother and mother. When she arrived at the hospital, her mother was on a ventilator. She learned that her mother had been shot at her home in southern California and was brain dead. Maxine was taken off the ventilator two days later.

"My mother was murdered in cold blood by my father in 1985 at the home where my three brothers and I grew up. Seventeen years after my parents divorced, my father, a physician, drove to my mother's home and murdered her because he did not want to pay years of court-ordered back child support from when we were minors," Helene said.

Helene and her family were not aware that victim's compensation funds or any type of victim's services were available to them. "I wish we would have had those invaluable resources. I spent almost two years involved with the DA's office, helping to give them information about the seventeen-year history of my parent's divorce, and my mother's financial issues. I wasn't aware of how depressed I'd become. At times I couldn't even get out of bed or function. I had nightmares almost every night, and didn't know I had developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Life was difficult and confusing, and I didn't realize I needed help or that services were available to me." She said that her faith, and acquiring knowledge about the death penalty, helped her develop an informed opinion against the death penalty.

"Years ago, I was pro-death penalty, thinking it was a great deterrent to murder, as well as proper justice for such a heinous crime. Over the years, one of my very best friends, K. Bandell, would send public information/articles to me about death penalty cases, and we would talk about it. It opened my eyes and widened what had been a narrow scope of knowledge of how the death penalty, and system works (or, should I say, is broken). Learning more shattered all of the 'myths' one typically thinks of regarding the death penalty. I now know that it is not a deterrent to homicide, it costs much more than permanent imprisonment, and, in my opinion, permanent imprisonment is a much more suitable penalty," Helene said.

"'Bad guys' don't think they will get the death penalty. Career criminals can and will commit homicides without getting the death penalty. The homicide rate hasn't exactly been going down on the graph charts over the years with the death penalty in place," she said.

Helene, a registered nurse working in Austin, is opposed to the death penalty because she believes it creates more victims than it helps. "There is no closure after a loved one is murdered. The criminal who is executed leaves behind relatives/friends of their own. These families not only have to live with the anguish of knowing their loved one was a murderer, but they then live a lifetime of grief after the execution. Tragedy begets tragedy, like a snowball rolling downhill," she explained.

People who knew her when she was much younger, she said, are surprised at how much more forgiving and spiritual she became after losing her mother. Now, as a survivor, she said she would advise people to avoid judging someone whose experience they have no ability to relate to. "If you haven't walked the walk, you don't know the searing pain and anguish that radiates from the heart to every aspect of your daily life." Helene said.

Helene's mother had boundless love for her children, and was very active in her community. "I strive to have a loving, caring heart as my mother did. If I can be half the woman she was, I would consider myself a success in life," she said.

Helene C. Burns, RN, works for the Seton Healthcare Network in Austin, is currently a volunteer mental health professional on the Critical Incident Stress Management Team with the Travis County Sheriff's Office, and was a volunteer with TCSO Victim Services for ten years.



Submitted by Chris Castillo, the Texas/National Organizer for Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, ccastillo@mvfr.org.



Regional Training Provides Unified Direction

The North Texas Regional Leadership Training, hosted at the Unity Church of Arlington on October 2 2010, provided TCADP members and supporters with a great opportunity to receive direction and plan local strategy. Supporters from the greater Dallas, Fort Worth, Winnsboro and College Station areas worked together throughout the day.

Participants learned about state and national death penalty developments and received an overview of the TCADP Strategic Plan.



Les Breeding, TCADP Board member, speaking on legislative advocacy.

They also took part in sessions on organizational development, legislative advocacy, and outreach and education to: victims' family members; civic and faith groups; and criminal justice professionals. Participants then worked briefly in the afternoon to develop local work plans.

This North Texas event was the last of five trainings hosted by TCADP around the state. The trainings, which have involved 120 local

members, are supported in part by funding from the Butler Family Fund and are provided at no cost to participants.

JOIN US! **Seizing the Momentum...**
Advancing Statewide Vision through Local Action.
2011 TCADP Annual Conference, February 19, 2011
 Schmidt-Jones Family Life Center
 First United Methodist Church, 12th and Lavaca, Austin, Texas

2011 TCADP Annual Award Nominations Sought

The Board of Directors is seeking nominations from the TCADP membership for the annual courage, appreciation, and media awards, which will be presented at the 2011 Annual Conference.

Submit a nomination by October 31st at

<http://tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/annualawards/>

2011 Conference Hotel Information

Please note that hotel accommodations in Austin may be very limited due to the Austin Marathon, so early booking is highly recommended.

Conference Hotel: La Quinta Austin (Capitol Location)

Learn more and book your room at

<http://tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/tcadp-conference-hotel/>

Look for details on the panel discussion, workshop opportunities and more on the TCADP website and in the TCADP Winter Newsletter.



TCADP Chapter News

El Paso Chapter... Over three days in late September, El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty (EPADP) was proud to host !La Pena de Muerte No Mas!, a speaking tour featuring Juan Roberto Melendez-Colon, an internationally-known death row exonoree.

Sharing a story described as "remarkable" by one EPADP member, Juan spoke to over 500 concerned El Pasoans at five separate venues. At the end of each talk, Juan invited the audience members to "pin me in my dream" of no more death penalty. And many did so the very day they heard Juan talk. Attendees signed up for the TCADP mailing list and gave donations to TCADP. Also, several people registered to vote for the first time! Additionally, over 200 people filled out and signed postcards to their Texas Representatives asking for death penalty repeal.

At the first event hosted by Border Network for Human Rights, the presence of two major local newspapers and five local television news stations helped stir additional interest in Juan's story and death penalty issues, and boosted attendance at the remaining events.

At the event sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso, EPADP was gifted with a check for \$100 from the congregation. EPADP and TCADP thank UUCEP for its generous contribution to repealing the death penalty!

This tour could not have happened without the generous assistance and gracious hospitality of the following: Border Network for Human Rights (Louie Gilot, Martina Morales), Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso (Janet Kincaid, Joe Knapka), St. Pius X Catholic Community (Mnsgr. Banuelos, Leticia Moreno), El Paso Community College Transmountain Campus (George Lyon), and University of Texas at El Paso (Professor Ted Curry). An extra special thank you to Eredina Vagas and Jeanette Walker for providing voter registration at the various events.

EPADP wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to Kristin and Vicki for their usual enthusiastic and efficient support of this event. Ultimately, this event would not have even been considered if it weren't for the generous underwriting of TCADP. If you ever wondered how your donations to TCADP are used, this speaking tour is one very good example. So, please continue to support TCADP, and look forward to more engaging events that will advance the State of Texas forward to repeal of the death penalty! - Karen Peissinger

College Station... On September 13 the Brazos Valley was host to Dr. Linda White, vice-president of the TCADP board and former member of the board of Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation.

Linda was invited by the Department of Multicultural Services at Texas A&M University to speak at their regular lunch-hour lecture series. The title of her talk was "Restorative Justice: Creating a New Paradigm for Criminal Justice." Linda described the journey that brought her to reforming how she thinks about crime and punishment in this society, which began with the kidnapping and murder of her child.

That evening she spoke to a group of about 30 members of the local nonprofit organization, Brazos Progressives. Both talks included a question and answer period and a good discussion. The impact of Linda's visit will extend beyond the date of her visit since she also recorded a radio interview for the local community radio station, KEOS. - Rich Woodward



(L to R) Karen Peissinger (EPADP Coordinator) and Juan Melendez accept a donation from Janet Kincaid, President of the Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso.

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Vigil Locations tcadp.org under “Get Involved”

Huntsville (Location of Executions) Corner of 12th and Ave. I (in front of Walls Unit) at 5:15 pm

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 pm 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 pm

El Paso 6:00 pm 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... October—December will be held from 5:30 to 6:20 at the Dominican Sisters Community, 5501 Alameda Road, at the corner of Alameda and Holcombe Blvd.

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

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

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 am on the day of execution. Broadcast on Catholic Television of San Antonio (Time-Warner cable channel 15) at 12:30 pm and 6:30 pm 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.

Calendar of Events

October

2 North Texas Regional Training

3 Odessa Chapter Meeting, 4:00pm

7 Larry Cox, Executive Director, Amnesty International USA “The Status of & the Struggle Against the Death Penalty Nationally & Internationally”, SMU Dallas, 7:00pm

8-9 NAACP Conference, Killeen

10 World Day Against the Death Penalty

13 Dallas Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm

14 Scheduled Execution – Gayland Bradford

14 Sam Millsap, former Texas prosecutor, Jordan Steiker, UT School of Law, “Death of a Penalty”, SMU – Dallas, 7:00pm

16-18 Journey of Hope in Houston

16 Interfaith Prayer Service, Huntsville, 2:00pm

17 *Reconciliation and Restorative Justice: The Road to Healing* featuring Linda White and Chris Castillo, Sol Center at University Presbyterian Church, 6:00-8:00pm, For further information contact 210-732-9927, email upcsa@upcsa.org, or visit the web at www.upcsa.org/sol_center

18 El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty "Fall Kickoff" at St. Pius X Catholic Church from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Juan Diego Room.

19 Frontline featuring Cameron Todd Willingham case, 9:00pm on PBS (check local listings) [Host a viewing party!](#)

20-22 Journey of Hope in Dallas

21 Scheduled Execution – Larry Wooten

23-24 Catholic Formation Conference, San Antonio

24-26 Journey of Hope in San Antonio

27-31 Journey of Hope in Austin

November

4 George Annas, Professor in the Boston University School of Medicine and School of Law, “The Death Penalty as a Medical Act”, SMU – Dallas, 7:00pm

7 Odessa Chapter meeting, 4:00pm

11 Scott Langley, Photographer; Virginia Dupuy, Professor of Voice Meadows School of the Arts; John Holbert, Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics performing excerpts from *Dead Man Walking*, SMU – Dallas, 7:00pm

15 El Paso Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm

17 Dallas Chapter meeting, 7:00pm

18 – Sister Helen Prejean “A Life’s Mission: Restorative Justice and the Death Penalty”; Virginia Dupuy performing Meditations, SMU – Dallas, 7:00pm

December

1 Scheduled Execution – Steven Staley

7 Release of TCADP Annual Report, date of resumption of executions in Texas 1982.

Full description with active links at www.tcadp.org under “Get Involved - Attend Events”



Methodist Federation for Social Action, Southwest Texas Chapter



Member Spotlight...



Does your organization have a statement against the death penalty?

We stand behind the United Methodist Church's position against the death penalty, which was first established in 1956. The current statement reads: "We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore, and transform all human beings. The United Methodist Church is deeply concerned about crime throughout the world and the value of any life taken by a murder or homicide. We believe

all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we must see all human life as significant and valuable. When governments implement the death penalty (capital punishment), then the life of the convicted person is devalued and all possibility of change in that person's life ends. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that the possibility of reconciliation with Christ comes through repentance. This gift of reconciliation is offered to all individuals without exception and gives all life new dignity and sacredness. For this reason, we oppose the death penalty (capital punishment) and urge its elimination from all criminal codes."

How did you learn about the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty? From some of our members.

What are your expectations in becoming an organizational member of TCADP?

We want to support TCADP's work. We want people to know about our organization and that we oppose the death penalty.

Where do you see the most progress in the movement to end the death penalty in TX?

In the recently adopted Life Without the Possibility of Parole sentencing option, and in the recent public debate about the possible wrongful execution of Cameron Todd Willingham.

What is the most compelling argument for your organization that the death penalty should be repealed?

It is morally wrong.

What other societal issues concern your organization?

Poverty, immigration, peace, rights of LGBT persons, environmental stewardship

What kinds of activities has your organization engaged in or supported to raise the issue of death penalty repeal?

We recently had a program on the death penalty with Bob Van Steenburg and Linda White as speakers. For the last two years, we have had a table at the TCADP annual conference and paid for an ad in the conference program. We publicize TCADP events in our newsletter.

YES, I want to help TCADP continue the momentum toward abolition!

Name/Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address (Help us verify that we have your current email address!) _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation:

- \$100 Annual Organization Membership
- \$60 Annual Household Membership
- \$40 Annual Individual Membership
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- \$80 Sustaining Membership (Two Years)
- \$_____ Additional donation for TCADP
- \$_____ **Total amount of your gift**

Please make checks out to TCADP. All donations are tax deductible and should be mailed to: TCADP; 2709 S. Lamar; Suite 109; Austin, TX 78704. A secure online donation can be made through the TCADP website: www.tcadp.org (click on "Donate"). **THANK YOU!**

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Thank You for Your Generous Support

TCADP thanks the following individuals & organizations for their generous contributions in the past quarter (June 16 – October 4, 2010). Your financial assistance supports all of the activities and events described in this newsletter! We apologize in advance if we have inadvertently left anyone off of this list.

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*Learn more about the new
"Partner for Justice Program" on Page 3!*

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

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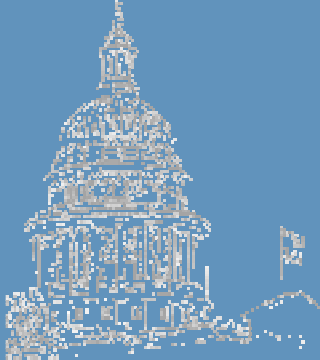
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If there is **no date** on your address label or a date prior to **10/01/2010** please take the time to renew your membership or become a new member. See inside for membership form.

**Seizing the Momentum...
Advancing Statewide Vision Through Local Action
TCADP Annual Conference**

Save the Date: February 19, 2011

**Schmidt Jones Family Life Center,
First United Methodist Church, Austin, TX**



Apply for Dave Atwood Scholarship to Attend NCADP Conference

In 2010, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP) announced the Dave Atwood Scholarship, in honor of TCADP's beloved founder.

This annual award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a strong commitment and dedication to abolishing the death penalty in Texas. The recipient, to be chosen by TCADP, will receive a full registration to NCADP's Annual Conference, which will next be held January 13 – 16, 2011 in Chicago, IL.

Apply by October 25! The recipient will be announced in November.

<http://tcadp.org/atwood-ncadp-conference-scholarship/>