



SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

WORKING TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN TEXAS FALL 2007

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October presents lots of opportunities for involvement!

"Music for Life" tour kicks off in Austin, TX with Sara Hickman and Friends. The tour will hit 12 cities in 12 months and work to raise the dialogue on the death penalty in Texas. Each concert will include Sara and local favorite musicians, plus speakers with intimate knowledge of the death penalty in Texas. Come listen, learn and have fun. All proceeds benefit TCADP. Invite your friends and family for a night of great music with a purpose! Music and people are best live! See current schedule on page 2, w/more info on page 3.



The Journey of Hope...From Violence to Healing is back in Texas with a big event in Houston highlighting author Sister Helen Prejean and singer/songwriter Nanci Griffith to be held at the University of St. Thomas on October 13. Learn more on page 5.



JOURNEY OF HOPE

From Violence to Healing™

Impending Executions

Please note that dates are tentative.

September

- 9/05 Tony Roach #404
- 9/13 Joseph Lave #405
- 9/20 Clifford Kimmel #406
- 9/25 Michael Richards #407
- 9/27 Carlton Turner #408

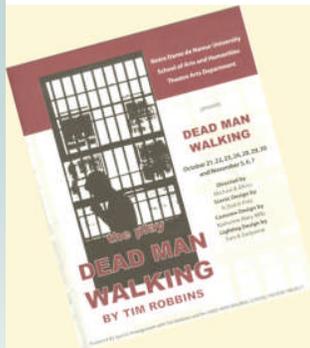
October

- 10/3 Heliberto Chi #409

January 2008

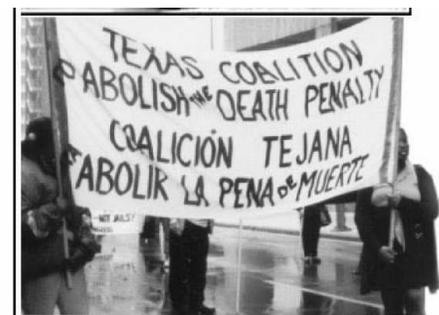
- 1/24 Denard Manns #410

Please note that the numbers are for Texas Executions since 1982 and subject to change.



From October 25 - 28, Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, will present four performances of the play Dead Man Walking as part of the 28th Annual Krost Symposium - The Creative Journey and the Art of Activism. TCADP will be helping with talkbacks and providing info on the Texas death penalty. All performances are free and open to the public, learn more on page 8.

Houston, TX will host the 8th Annual March to Stop Executions, Saturday, October 27, 2007. Come to Houston and join with local activists to protest the use of the death penalty in Texas especially from Harris county. Texas executed the 100th person from Harris County. Learn more about the march on page 9.





A Note from the Chair

Rick Halperin, President

As we are going to print with this edition, Texas is approaching its 400th execution since it resumed capital punishment on Dec. 7, 1982. Harris County alone has accounted for more than 100 of those, a whopping 25 % of the state total. Of the 400 executions 6 were individuals who were mentally retarded, at least 20 were severely mentally ill, 13 were juvenile offenders, and 42 were sentenced under jury instructions that have been declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. If we look at race, 83 African Americans have been executed for crimes involving white victims, 29 Latinos have been executed for crimes involving white victims, and no whites have been executed for crimes involving African Americans. By all accounts, the record of Texas is abysmal. And sadly, there is no let-up in the immediate future: the state has scheduled 5 executions in both August and September. If the current schedule of executions remains unchanged, Texas will execute 31 people this year, which will be more than a third of all executions in the nation at the end of 2007.

There is, however, a lot of work being done by numerous activists and groups to help bring this state nightmare to an end as quickly as possible. The annual March Against Executions is coming up October 27, highlighting the continual problems of the death penalty institution in this state. The Journey of Hope will be visiting the state in October. Sara Hickman, an Austin based singer, songwriter and musician, will soon begin a year long musical tour (titled "Music for Life") of Texas, visiting a different city each month, to help raise awareness across the state about the death penalty. You can read about each of these activities, and more, in this issue of our newsletter. However, I encourage you to do more than just read about these activities. Support them; participate in them; get your friends to join you. The only way we can change the record in Texas with regard to the death penalty is by each of us speaking up and speaking out, and by increasing the numbers of those who join us. Abolishing the death penalty is job that we all have to take on personally. Come join us in the work!

CALL FOR SPEAKERS!

TCADP is looking for Murder Victim Family Members who are willing to assist us in speaking out against the death penalty. This voice is the one unassailable voice that needs to be heard in Texas. Contact Vicki at the state office, 512 441-1808 or info@tcadp.org to work with us and define how your story can help end the cycle of violence.



MUSIC FOR LIFE TOUR

Featuring

**Sara Hickman
& Friends**

Raising the Dialogue on the Death Penalty in Texas

Music and People are Best Live!

www.tcadp.org/musictour.php

KICKOFF: October 3, 7:00pm First United Methodist Church, Austin

November 7: Olson Auditorium Sam Houston State Univ., Huntsville

December : First Unitarian Universalist, San Antonio

January 14: Burning Bush Coffeehouse, Corpus Christi

February 6: Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston

April 9: Club 101, El Paso

March, May, June, July, August, September TBA

FINALE: October 8 - Austin

12 CITIES - 12 MONTHS

LISTEN, LEARN, AND HAVE FUN!

Proceeds benefit the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty



Donate online, at
www.tcadp.org/donate.php

Thank you!



SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

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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.

New Resources Available on the Death Penalty and Mental Illness By Kristin Houlé

TCADP is delighted to announce the release of its new **Mental Illness and the Death Penalty (MIDP) Organizing Packet**, which will provide you and/or your group with all of the information you'll need to educate yourselves and take action! These exciting resource materials can be used to engage faith communities, student groups, civic groups, and other allies in raising awareness of the fact that current constitutional safeguards and Texas law do not protect those with persistent and severe mental illnesses from being sentenced to death or executed.

Help us reach our goal of collecting 1000 signed postcards by the end of 2007.

The packet includes fact sheets, a resource list, definitions of key terms and legal statutes, ideas

for action, a DVD on Scott Panetti (see box), and portraits of individuals such as Kelsey Patterson, Larry Robison, James Colburn, Emile Duhamel, and Monty Delk, whose cases illustrate the failings of the state's mental healthcare and criminal justice systems. The central action component is the **MIDP postcard**, which calls for a prohibition

of the death penalty for severely mentally ill offenders and for increased funding for mental healthcare in the state of Texas.

[Click to read the postcard.](#) To request postcards so that your friends, family members, church can sign them, order the organizing packet! Help us reach our goal of collecting 1000 postcards by the end of 2007.

To request your copy of the **Mental Illness and the Death Penalty Organizing Packet**, please contact Kristin Houlé at khoule@tcadp.org or 512-441-1808. Please specify the number of postcards you would like to receive as part of your packet.

Last but not least, check out our new blog <http://preventionnotpunishment.blogspot.com> dedicated to educating the public about issues related to mental illness and the death penalty. Add your comments today!

"Music For Life" Tour, Oct 2007-Oct 2008



Sara Hickman, an Austin based singer, songwriter, musician, has agreed to conduct a year long tour of Texas on behalf of TCADP. It will be called "Music For Life." Here are the details about the tour.

Beginning October 2007 Sara Hickman will visit a different city in Texas each month for a year. Sara will be joined at various times during this tour by other entertainers. The purpose of the tour is engage people across the state in a

dialogue about the death penalty and hopefully to raise some money for TCADP. Individuals will be invited to speak about the death penalty with the expectation that as more people become aware of the death penalty they will see its faults and errors and move away from supporting it.

Sara is not only a gifted entertainer; she also devotes much of her time and talents to support of progressive efforts such as ours. You can learn more about her at www.sarahickman.com. Entertainers who have already agreed to join Sara are Barbara Kooyman, Shelley King, Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart and Trish Murphy. Sara is talking with others as well. See page 2 for dates and places.

We are making plans to also visit San Antonio, Bryan/College Station, Waco, Ft Worth, and/or Lubbock.

As you can imagine, there is a lot of work in making something such as this successful. We will need support from TCADP members in each of the cities where Sara will perform and we encourage you to contact us (info@tcadp.org, 512-441-1808) and offer to help. Visit the TCADP web site for complete details and updates about the tour, www.tcadp.org/musictour.php.

Supreme Court Blocks Panetti Execution

On June 28, 2007, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Texas death row inmate Scott Panetti, who was sentenced to death despite a long, documented history of paranoid schizophrenia. The court questioned the value of executing someone who does not comprehend why he is being put to death (Panetti believes that the state intends to execute him in order to prevent him from preaching the gospel in prison).

The Justices found that the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals used "an improperly restrictive test" in deciding that Panetti was sane enough to be executed. The 5th Circuit had said that it did not matter what Panetti believed as long as he could acknowledge the murders as well as the stated purpose of his execution. The Supreme Court decision sends the case back to a federal district judge who will hold a hearing as to whether Panetti's delusions are indeed so severe that he cannot make the connection between his crime and punishment and should be spared from execution.

A new documentary from the Texas Defender Service (TDS), "Executing the Insane: The Case of Scott Panetti," chronicles the injustices of the case and the impact that Panetti's mental illness – and his death sentence – has had on his family. TCADP's Mental Illness and the Death Penalty Organizing Packet will include this DVD and a discussion guide. You can also view the film on the TDS website:

www.texasdefender.org/panettidocumentary.asp.

How you can help with the TCADP Strategic Plan

Membership Development: A primary focus of the TCADP Strategic Plan for the foreseeable future is membership development. It is a fact that the more members we gain, the louder our collective voice will be...and our voice must be very loud to be heard over the din of misconceptions and outright lies being hawked as "truths" about the death penalty. The simple fact is: **We need many, many new members to make TCADP a force to be reckoned with in our state!** The following bullets are suggestions for **your participation in building our membership numbers:**

- **Volunteer to attend tabling events at conferences, seminars, meetings, etc. in your local area.** Take TCADP information, as well as petitions for people to sign. (Petitions and death penalty information sheets are available through the TCADP office.) Send the signed petitions to the TCADP office for further contact with the petitioners.
- **Invite people in your local area who you think may be prospective new TCADP members to your local chapter meetings.**
- **Participate in the competition to "sign up" new members (see article in newsletter),** and win admission for two to the 2008 TCADP conference and a concurrent free night in the Houston Crowne Plaza Hotel.
- **Contact churches, civic clubs, schools, etc. in your area and ask them to host a speaker from the TCADP Speakers' Bureau.** Take TCADP information and petitions to the event to sign up potential new members.
- **Publicize events in which you are involved through local TV, radio, and newspapers.** Flyers are a time-tested method of advertising an event, as well.
- **Host a "Membership Drive" party, and urge attendees to join TCADP.** (Hint: You may want to invite a speaker from the Speakers' Bureau to help you.)

Membership development is certainly not limited to the above activities or events. Be creative! Come up with your own method of securing new members for TCADP...or try one of the activities listed above. The TCADP state office will assist you with most of the activities above, but we need you to start the process. **It's not merely important...It's a matter of Life or Death!**

Fundraising:

Part I: Want to Make Some Money?

I'm sure that all of you know that TCADP is a non-profit organization that is dependent upon gifts, donations and fund raising activities for its financial support. You all also realize, I am sure, that TCADP is usually on the edge when it comes to our annual expenditures and resources. We all need to aggressively go after every penny and dollar that we can garner for the organization.

Recently the Austin TCADP chapter held a very successful fund raiser that wasn't a back breaking effort. We offer this experience as a suggestion to other TCADP chapters in hopes that you might be able to use it, as well, as method to raise some much need dollars for our organization.

Here is what we did. We put on a play! Well, actually, we didn't act in the play, but we did sponsor one. We were able to have one evening's performance of a locally staged play designated as a benefit performance for TCADP. This meant that we received the receipts from ticket sales for that night. We did have to pay a \$500 fee for this opportunity, but we more than covered that with our results. The play was performed by a local theater group and was staged at a local church. The evening we supported the play was one of several in the run of the show. We sold all tickets for that night's performance. We sold the refreshments (soda, water and cookies) and asked for donations for beer and wine. We also held a silent auction as part of the evening. It did take a little bit of effort to organize this part of the event, but the results were that we cleared over \$2700 for our work. We considered it such a success that we have asked to have the same opportunity again next year, and the host church has agreed to let us do so. I would be happy to discuss the details of this with anyone who would like more information (Bob Van Steenburg, austin@tcadp.org).

Part II: A Different Approach.

While on the topic of fund raising, here is another suggestion. Have a house party! Invite individuals to your home to hear someone talk about the death penalty. TCADP has a Speaker's Bureau and can make individuals available. You also might consider having a local leader, personality or clergy member as the speaker. Provide wine and cheese or other snacks. Be open and tell people what you are doing and why you are inviting them. It's no shame to ask for money--salespersons, ads, commercials, and other organizations do it all the time. Again, we can offer advice and suggestions on how to do something like this. Contact us at our email address, info@tcadp.org or phone, 512-441-1808. And good luck!

Education: TCADP wants to increase its educational outreach. If you have contacts with local civic organizations (Lions Club, Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.) let us know so we can provide a speaker and information for one of their meetings. Contact TCADP at our office to learn more.



Member Spotlight...

Carol Tures formerly of El Paso, TX (Now a resident of Nashville, Tennessee)

How did you come to be against the death penalty?

I was inspired by the movie, "Dead Man Walking."

How did you learn about the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty?

I was encouraged by the Peace and Justice minister at the El Paso Catholic Diocese to attend the annual meeting of Catholic charities in San Antonio at the Oblate Retreat Center in 1999.

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

We are going to have a moratorium on the death penalty in Texas and eventual abolition! TCADP has lots of very nice, dedicated members and we will succeed.

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

The Southern Baptist Convention is currently the chief proponent of the death penalty. Also there is a perception by legislators that their constituents are so much in favor of the death penalty that the elected officials would not be reelected if they oppose the death penalty.

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

The religious argument is what I always come back to in my own mind, that we are not permitted to deliberately, ritualistically, take the life of another human being, that it demeans us and gives bad examples to others. Other compelling arguments are cost, innocence, counter productivity, psychological harm to direct participants, bad example to persons in other nations, etc.

What other organizations are you a member of?

El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty, Catholic Diocese of El Paso, Queen of Peace Catholic parish, Providence/Sierra Hospital Spiritual Care Dept., and Catholic Communion Ministry.

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

Journalism, artwork, teaching/public speaking



Carol Tures has just left El Paso, TX, and has moved with her family to Nashville, Tennessee. Carol was the leader of El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty. Carol was a passionate and active advocate for the fight to end the death penalty in Texas, making a lot of progress in El Paso by spearheading the effort that recently secured the passage of a county moratorium resolution. We will miss her greatly!

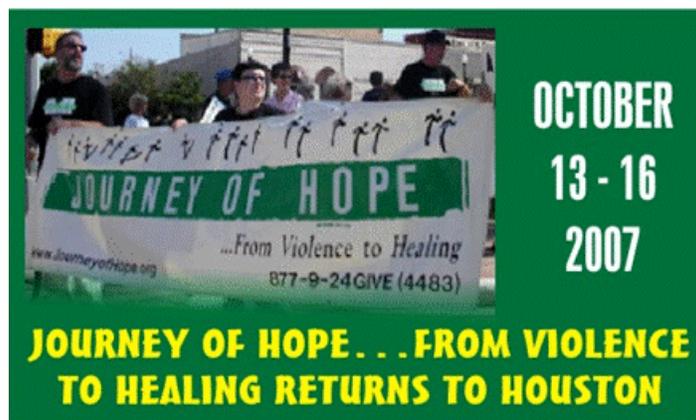
The Journey of Hope...From Violence to Healing

will be in Houston - October 13 - 16, 2007, and October 17-27- Austin, San Antonio, Waco, and Dallas. The Journey is a speaking tour led by people who have lost a loved one to murder, but who still oppose the death penalty. Their stories of compassion, forgiveness and mercy are amazing. They will be joined on the Journey by exonerated death row prisoners and activists concerned about the death penalty.

The Journey will kick off its Houston tour at the University of St. Thomas (Jerabeck Center) at 7pm on Saturday, October 13. The program will include Sr. Helen Prejean of "Dead Man Walking" fame, singer/songwriter Nanci Griffith, and Marietta Jaeger-Lane who lost her daughter, Susie, to murder when she was seven years old. The event is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome.

Journey members will be available to speak at churches and congregations on Sunday, October 14. They will also be available to speak at high schools, universities, civic clubs and other organizations on October 15 and 16. There is no charge for speakers although donations are warmly accepted to defray the cost of the tour. To schedule a speaker in Houston, contact Dave Atwood at 832- 693-5710 or dpatwood@igc.org. Any other city in Texas, Bill at bill@journeyofhope.org.

"Loved ones, wrenched from our lives by violent crime, deserve more beautiful, noble and honorable memorials than pre-meditated, state-sanctioned killings. The death penalty only creates more victims and more grieving families. By becoming that which we deplore, people who kill people, we insult the sacred memory of all our precious victims." – Marietta Jaeger-Lane



TCADP Chapter News

Chapters should be one of the key entry points into the organization to help with fundraising, education, and membership growth. Being in Texas, TCADP faces the unique challenge of geographical distance. Chapters and their local work must help overcome this cumbersome barrier.

Expectations of TCADP chapters...Would you like to organize a TCADP chapter in your community? It's easy. Here is all there is to it (from Chapter 3 of TCADP By-laws):

3.01 General. To be recognized as an official chapter member of the corporation, a group must have at least five listed members and the group must have had at least two consecutive quarterly meetings attended by at least three of those members. After being recognized as an official chapter member, the Chapters must continue to meet the requirements specified in Article 3.03 of these bylaws.

3.02 New Chapters. Groups that are desirous of becoming a chapter of the Corporation must submit an application describing the group, its members and what it plans to accomplish as a chapter. New chapters must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors.

3.03 Duties and Responsibilities. Chapters must follow the By-laws, policies and procedures established by the Board. Chapters are expected to support the goals and activities of the corporation and, as a minimum, hold quarterly meetings, and provide a quarterly report of their actions and activities.

3.04 Fundraising. Chapters may conduct fundraising for chapter activities and may have a local bank account.

3.05 Dues. Persons become members of the Corporation through the payment of established dues and automatically become members of the local chapter where they reside. Chapters may solicit donations from their members in order to generate operating funds.

To begin the process of organizing a chapter or becoming a regional representative please contact info@tcadp.org.

400 Killings...and Counting. By Bob Van Steenburg

A series of killings have been committed in the state of Texas. More than 400 people will have been killed by the end of August this year since the re-instatement of the death penalty in December 1982. This is more than four times the number of any other state in the nation. And it continues.

We know everything there is to know about these killings. We know how they are being carried out. We know when the next killing will occur. We even know the perpetrator. Who is it? It is us, the citizens of Texas. We permit the state to carry out these killings in our name. This is the execution system in Texas. And we are responsible.

We have executed 21 people as of the end of July and are scheduled to execute 9 more before the end of the year. No other state even approaches this number. At

this pace Texas will account for about two thirds of the total executions in America in 2007.

We do this despite doubts about the deterrent effect of the death penalty. We do this despite knowing that the system is flawed and filled with error. We have seen more than 120 people, including eight in Texas, released from death row because of their wrongful conviction. We have killed juvenile offenders. We have killed offenders with mental retardation. We have killed people who have been denied treatment for their severe mental illness, and right now in Tarrant County officials are forcibly medicating an inmate with anti-psychotic drugs that one day may make him sane enough to be executed. We have compelling evidence that we have executed innocent people. We kill despite knowing that

we have another means, Life Without Parole, by which we can punish the guilty, protect society and ensure that we don't kill the innocent.

The death penalty does not necessarily provide closure for victim's families. It does not deter murder or violent crime. It is biased against those who cannot afford to hire lawyers. It does not necessarily protect the innocent, nor always punish the guilty. It is randomly applied. It is more expensive than life imprisonment. And it creates another set of grieving family members.

Yet we call capital punishment "justice." Justice? In Texas, thy name is vengeance! But the killing goes on in the state of Texas. It will stop only when the citizens of this state tell their legislators that they are disgusted with this blight on their reputation and demand an end to executions.

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UZBEK Human Rights Defender visits Dallas by Susybelle Gosslee

Dallas – Ms. Tamara Chikunova, founder of the Uzbekistan-based group Mothers Against the Death Penalty and Torture, visited the United States for the first time to speak publicly on a panel with other Texas family members of people who have been executed. Ms. Chikunova's son Dmitri was executed in Uzbekistan seven years ago. She spoke at the Third International Women's Peace Conference on Saturday, July 14th at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

At the age of 28, Dimitri was executed in secret, eight months after his conviction. During pre-trial investigation, he reportedly suffered gruesome torture before he confessed. Ms. Chikunova was not notified in advance of her son's execution date; she simply arrived at the prison in Uzbekistan for a visit one day and was told that he had been executed the day before. To this day, Ms. Chikunova does not know where her son is buried. Her son was sentenced to death without receiving a fair trial and was executed in Uzbekistan on July 10, 2000.

Ms. Chikunova's organization faced harassment and intimidation by some authorities as it campaigned for an end to the death penalty in Uzbekistan. The organization's efforts paid off in August 2005 when President Islam Karimov first directed a decree that he supported a ban on the death penalty. This summer, shortly before Ms. Chikunova's visit to the U.S., the Uzbek Senate voted to end the death penalty starting in 2008, although the government will continue with the pending executions.

Ms. Chikunova said that she does not hold a grudge against the Uzbek state, because "cruelty and rage are bad advisors." She praised President Karimov for supporting the abolition of capital punishment, calling it an "impressive political and civic step forward on the way to democracy

and humane society." While the move demonstrates citizen action can make a difference, it has drawn mixed public and political reactions.

Disappointment was expressed by Ms. Chikunova when the president did not call for a moratorium. Other critics have expressed complaints that the move is a political ploy with the purpose of improving Uzbekistan's human rights image in the international community.

"The main reason for its adoption is a presidential election [scheduled for December] before which Karimov wants to look in the best possible way," said Tashkent-based political scientist Tashpulat Yuldashev. The ban will not improve the situation in general, Yudashev added, because prison conditions remain so poor.

Ms. Chikunova's visit to the United States was the result of a collaborative effort between Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights (MVFHR), the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and the Third International Women's Peace Conference. She spoke as part of a panel titled "Creating More Victims: How Executions Hurt the Families Left Behind." Joining her on the panel were Ms. Lois Robison, whose son Larry was executed in Texas in 2000, and Ms. Melanie Hebert, whose uncle Spencer Goodman was executed in Texas that same year.

Ms Chikunova's visit took place as Texas prepared for its 400th execution, currently scheduled in August. Texas leads the nation in executions accounting for more than a third of the almost 1100 U.S. executions that have occurred since 1977. Dallas County is second in the state in the highest number of executions. Harris County alone has more executions than Virginia, the second most



L to R: Susannah Sheffer, Lois Robison, Melanie Hebert, and Tamara Chikunova

frequently executing state in the U.S.

"This was an opportunity for people in Texas to hear about how the death penalty shames and traumatizes the surviving family members, and to see that that experience is common across different cultures and nationalities," said Ms. Susannah Sheffer of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, who moderated the panel. Ms. Chikunova talked about the secrecy surrounding the death penalty in her country. "What Tamara Chikunova went through is appalling, and we need to remember that a kind of secrecy and silence surrounds the death penalty in the United States as well," Ms. Sheffer said. "With each execution, we create a new grieving family, and their experience is seldom taken into account when we consider the social costs of the death penalty."

Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights (MVFHR) is a U.S.-based organization of family members of homicide victims and family members of people who have been executed. MVFHR recently published the groundbreaking report, /Creating More Victims: How Executions Hurt the Families Left Behind/, which can be downloaded at www.mvfhr.org

The Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP) also cosponsored the panel along with another presentation by Ms. Chikunova on Saturday evening.

Uzbekistan is formerly of the Soviet Union.

The Art of Activism: Texas Lutheran University Presents Dead Man Walking

From October 25 - 28, Texas Lutheran University will present four performances of Dead Man Walking as part of the 28th Annual Krost Symposium - The Creative Journey and the Art of Activism. The play is based on the book by Sister Helen Prejean, and adapted from the motion picture. The stage version extends the powerful impact of this compelling story to theatres throughout the nation, as part of the Dead Man Walking School Theatre Project. Dead Man Walking explores the complex realities of capital punishment and the impact it has on all parties, the audience included. Written by Academy-Award winner Tim Robbins, and balancing the tension inherent in both sides of the issue, Dead Man Walking provokes thoughtful discourse about one of the most polarizing issues of our time.

In support of the play, several other events will add context to the discussion. An award-winning documentary project by photographer Scott Langley will be on exhibit through the run of the production. A concert by Austin singer/songwriter (and TCADP friend) Sara Hickman will kick off the opening-night performance, Thursday, October 25, at 7 PM. Following the performance on Thursday, Sister Maureen Fenlon of the Dead Man Walking School Theatre Project, and Kristin Houlé of TCADP, will moderate an audience discussion. TCADP also will sponsor an information table throughout the symposium. All performances are free and open to the public!

Details

Performances will take place October 25-28: Thursday @ 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday @ 7 p.m., Sunday @ 2:30 p.m. Jackson Auditorium, Texas Lutheran University. TLU is located in Seguin, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. For maps and directions, visit www.tlu.edu.

Organizing Tip...

**Give People Something to Do...
Something to be a part of...
Some role to play in your chapter...
Figure out their interests and motivation
in attending your event or meeting.**

Some people will just want to take a passive role, i.e. just want to show up at a vigil. That's great, but those aren't the people we are focusing on here. We want to recruit active members. To recruit these members, we need to let them know that their presence is important and valued, and that they have a big role to play in the success of the organization. People who come to meetings want to feel that they are contributing to your organization's goal/strategy.

People should walk out of your meetings with a job—but make sure that it's reasonable and within the scope of their interest/commitment level. Make sure that the extent of participation is under their control. It's your responsibility to follow up with them and hold them accountable. Many people might agree with your group's mission but have never taken the step, or been encouraged/invited to become active. Getting them to an event or meeting is just the first step— your most important job is to make sure they come back!

And, further down the road, you need to make sure that members are appreciated and give them opportunities for personal growth.

Texas Death Row Inmates: Need Help with Civil Legal Needs?

TCADP is working with the Texas Access to Justice Commission (TAJC) to improve incarcerated people's access to lawyers and the courts. To best serve inmates, TAJC needs to know what common legal problems incarcerated people face. Unfortunately, TAJC cannot provide representation directly at this time, and cannot help challenge your criminal conviction or sentence. If you have any other civil legal problem, however, such as divorce, child support, need for a will, etc., please write TCADP describing your problem so we can learn what services death row inmates need. We cannot promise you we can find an attorney to take your case, but knowing what types of problems inmates face will help TAJC develop strategies to help civil legal needs of Texas inmates.

As part of this effort, TCADP has free resources on how to write a will without the need of legal counsel. To receive this information send a request to TCADP at 2709 S Lamar, Austin, TX 78704.

Check with your chapter leader (listed on page 5) for dates and times of meetings!

Raising the Dialogue in Texas Faith Communities

Page 9, Fall 2007

It's not too late for your faith community to sign up to participate in the National Weekend of Faith in Action on the Death Penalty (NWFA) or the Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty this October. The NWFA, coordinated by Amnesty International USA, will take place throughout the country during the weekend of October 19-21. The Catholic Campaign is ongoing but takes on special meaning during the Church's Respect Life Month in October.

There is still plenty of time for you to organize one of the following activities:

- Publicize your faith tradition's position/statements on the death penalty
- Collect signatures for TCADP's postcard campaign calling for a prohibition on the death penalty for offenders with severe mental illness and for increased funding for mental healthcare in Texas (see the postcard enclosed in this newsletter)
- Host a speaker or watch a film on the death penalty and hold a follow-up discussion
- Toll your bells on the days of executions in Texas in order to encourage reflection and prayer (see www.curenational.org/bells for more information about this program)

TCADP can provide you with fact sheets, brochures, films, discussion guides, petitions, or whatever else you might need to make your event/activity a success! Contact us today at info@tcadp.org to discuss ways we can help you put YOUR faith into action.

For Catholic parishes, please contact Jean Van Steenburg at austin@tcadp.org. Go to www.ccedp.org to learn more about the Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty and to download materials.

For all other faith traditions, you can register for the NWFA online at www.amnestyusa.org/faithinaction or by contacting Brian Evans at 202-544-0200, ext. 496 or TCADP at info@tcadp.org or 512-441-1808. All NWFA participants receive an organizing packet, including a free DVD!



Review of Warrior Within by Sandrine Ageorges

If you want to find out about life on Texas death row: how once inside the system, one discovers that the criminal justice system is everything but just and undoubtedly criminal; how solitary confinement eats human beings alive and how the day to day routine unfolds in this hellhole. You must read Warrior Within written from death row by Charles Flores. After reading this book, you will surely have a much better understanding of the killing machine in Texas.

You can purchase the book online at:

<http://warriorwithin.info/index.php?pr=home>

Or you can order it through Charles' parents, Carter & Lily Flores, at: cat_lil@verizon.net

An important note: this book is not authorized by TDCJ and cannot be sent to prisoners in Texas.

The story has been told . . .
This is a vivid first-hand account of
"doing time" inside
the Texas Death machine



8th Annual March to Stop Executions Houston, TX

October 27, 2007

**1:00 pm Freeway blogging
on the Gray and McGowan
St Bridges over HW 59**

2:00 pm Rally

2:30 pm March

**3:00 pm Rally in the Park,
SHAPE Community Center,
3815 Live Oak at Alabama**

SAVE THIS DATE!

**Statewide
Participation
Needed!**

WIN A PRIZE IN TCADP MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Page 10, Fall 2007

The TCADP Membership Committee has announced a Membership Drive Contest, with first, second, and third place prizes offered to the individuals bringing in the greatest number of new members between September 1 and December 31, 2007. In an effort to increase TCADP's educational outreach and to amplify the collective voice against the death penalty, the Committee is offering the following prizes to the three individuals who recruit the most new members: (See end of article for contest guidelines and rules.)

GRAND PRIZE (offered to the person who recruits the greatest number of new members—minimum to qualify for prize **10** new members): **TWO FREE ADMISSIONS TO THE 2008 ANNUAL TCADP CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON WITH ONE (double room) FREE NIGHT IN THE CROWNE PLAZA HOUSTON WEST HOTEL DURING THE CONFERENCE (limited to hotel room cost only).**

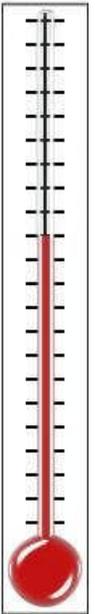
RUNNER UP PRIZE (offered to the person who recruits the second greatest number of new members—minimum to qualify for prize **6** new members): **TWO FREE ADMISSIONS TO THE 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON.**

APPRECIATION AWARD (offered to the person who recruits the third greatest number of new members—minimum to qualify for prize **4** new members): **ONE FREE ADMISSION TO THE 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON.**

CONTEST GUIDELINES AND RULES: Category prizes will be awarded to individuals who recruit no fewer than the minimum number of new members defined above. For example, if the greatest number of new members recruited by any individual is 7, the Grand Prize will be Two Free Tickets to the Conference only, etc. No person who is presently listed in the TCADP membership database may be counted as a new member. New members **MUST** pay membership dues when joining TCADP to be counted. Although all members are encouraged to donate more, the minimum membership fee is \$30 per person or \$50 per joint membership for a regular annual membership or \$15 per student/limited income annual membership. New members **MUST** indicate on their checks, membership forms, or in some other type of written communication the first and last names of the individual who recruited them. Credit for new member recruitment will be given only to individuals who have some kind of written documentation of their recruitment.

New member forms may be downloaded from the TCADP website www.tcadp.org/contents/memberform.org or obtained through the TCADP office at 2709 S. Lamar Blvd. #109, Austin, TX. 78704. The website also takes online donations.

Forms and fees should be mailed to Sherry Coombes, Treasurer TCADP, 1604 Garnaas Dr., Austin, TX. 78758. In case of a tie, prizes will be based on the actual dollar amounts received per recruiter. The contest ends December 31, 2007 at midnight, with no exceptions. Winners will be notified by the TCADP treasurer. If you have questions, you may call Sherry Coombes at 512-339-9574 or Vicki McCuistion at 512-441-1808.



Thank you for your Generous Support

TCADP thanks the following members and donors who have contributed generously from **May 16 - August 17, 2007**. 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. In some instances we do not have spouses names.

- Nancy Bailey • Eugene Balaguer • Janet Beddoe • Sarah Berel-Harrop • E Wayles Browne • Ray Campion • Ida Cheatham •
 - Marjan Cochez • Cherie Colbert • Jim & Sherry Coombes • Mariarosaria Crispino • Alfred Dabrowski • Eleanor Davis •
- Fr. Martin Elsner • Kelly Epstein • Bishop Joseph A Fiorenza • Hugh Fleischer • Susan Gries • Judy Holloway • Kristin Houlé •
 - Stan Hutchison • Marybeth Jackson • Rev. Hubert Kealy • Michelle Kraetschmer • Joachim Kubler • Matilda Lavenas •
 - Janice MacRossin • Richard Massey • Ronald McAndrew • Dan & Vicki McCuistion • Martin McHale • Pat Nichols •
- Nancy O'Byrne • Joyce Pulich • Elizabeth Quigley • Ann Smith • Rev Marvin Steinmetz • Myriam Stubbe • Rita Taubenfeld •
 - Bob & Jean Van Steenburg • Linda White • Phivan Wright • Catholic Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston •
 - Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio • Catholic Diocese of Austin • Catholic Diocese of Beaumont •
 - Catholic Diocese of Brownsville • Catholic Diocese of Dallas • Catholic Diocese of San Angelo •
 - School Sisters of Notre Dame of Dallas • Srs. Of Charity of Leavenworth •

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. We also need your financial support to do the education and advocacy necessary to move Texas Legislators in the right direction. **Thank you for your generous support!**

TCADP ANNUAL CONFERENCE January 26, 2008

Crowne Plaza Houston West, 14703 Park Row, Houston, TX 77079, 281-558-5580

Seeking Justice in Texas . . . Educating for Life

The Annual TCADP Conference, "Seeking Justice in Texas . . . Educating for Life," expects to be an interesting, exciting, busy and fulfilling day.

The program begins with the keynote address. A plenary session, **Seeking Justice . . . Educating Ourselves**, will follow. This session will direct participants in ways to educate and prepare themselves to work in their home communities. Then four workshops will guide us through the afternoon.

How to Engage Faith Communities

What do you need to know about faith communities before you launch a religious outreach program? This workshop will guide participants in working with religious leaders and all people of faith and help answer questions such as these.

How to Answer the Tough Questions

Have you ever been stumped by one of those tough questions about the death penalty? This workshop will address some of the common death penalty arguments and help participants learn to respond in ways that promote constructive conversation.

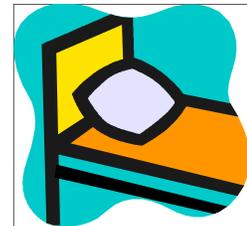
How to Reach New Audiences

Who's missing in our work against the death penalty? This workshop will guide participants in ways to expand the dialogue on the death penalty to new groups and organizations.

Private Session for Families of Death Row Inmates

The details of this session are being planned.

The final session of the day will be a group sharing session where all participants will gather to share what they learned in their workshops and how they plan to take this information back home while **Seeking Justice . . . Educating Our Communities**.



If you plan to stay over night at the hotel, the Crowne Plaza Houston

West has guaranteed TCADP a room rate of \$85 per night for rooms from January 25, 2008-January 27, 2008. The deadline for reservations at this rate is January 11, 2008. For reservations:

www.cphoustonwest.com or toll free at 1-888-252-9879.



**400th Execution
August 22, 2007
Vigil in Front of State Capitol
Remembering all the victims of the death penalty.**



TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

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JOIN TCADP TODAY!

Please Enter My Membership To TCADP:

- _____ \$30.00 Annual Membership
- _____ \$50.00 Annual Joint Membership
- _____ \$100.00 Sustaining Membership
- _____ \$250.00 Business Membership
- _____ \$ Enclosed is an additional contribution to support TCADP.

This is a tax-deductible donation.

Fill in the Information Below and Mail to:

TCADP 2709 S Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78704

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Send me a _____ print newsletter and/or an _____ email newsletter

Referred by: _____

(INCLUDE THIS INFO FOR THE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST)