

Here are a great many NEWS items. Later pages show a great many OUTREACH IDEAS.

Abolish THE DEATH PENALTY

Connect with local folks working to abolish the death penalty: The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty began under a different name in 1989 and has been working continuously since then. We meet every month (except December) and organize a variety of activities to educate the public, the media, and government officials. You can contact our committee by e-mailing deathpenalty@olympiafor.org. You can interact with other folks by signing up for our interactive listserv and our Facebook page (see below). Also, you can see much information on the "Death Penalty" part of www.olympiafor.org. The government will not abolish the death penalty unless we organize and work strategically and energetically, but if we do that we can win!

DEATH PENALTY NEWS. *SEE LATER PAGES FOR ACTION PROPOSALS.*

Washington State's prosecuting attorneys want clarity about public opinion about death penalty and are asking 2016 Legislature to put a referendum on the November 2016 ballot: Mainstream media reported this in mid-November 2015. It is not necessarily a good thing for people who oppose the death penalty. ***See information about this at the end of this NEWS section and also on a later page in this newsletter near the top of the section about building the movement to abolish the death penalty.***

Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty now has a Facebook page: We call it "Olympia Neighbors Against the Death Penalty. Please see it at <https://www.facebook.com/OlympiaNeighborsAgainstTheDeathPenalty/> and "LIKE" it and share it with your friends!

Death penalty is trending downward in the US: This reasonably short article is worth reading because it provides numbers that show a powerful downward trend, so it is worth reading: www.tinyurl.com/parklzx

New survey shows most Americans now prefer "life without parole" over the death penalty: On November 24, 2015, the Death Penalty Information Center (www.deathpenaltyinfo.org) posted information from the 2015 American Values Survey conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute. It was based on a poll of 2,695 persons and showed different results by race, by education levels, and by political party. See information at www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/node/6309

New report on military veterans and the death penalty shows our "justice system" fails to adequately consider their war-related mental disabilities: On November 10, 2015, a report was released, showing PTSD and other war-related trauma an important problem. The article about this on the website of the Death Penalty Information Center (www.deathpenaltyinfo.org) said, "More than one million veterans have returned from wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and the Middle East with symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)." While the overwhelming majority of veterans do not commit violent crime, for "a small but significant number, their mental wounds contributed to their committing acts of violence. An estimated 300 veterans, many suffering from combat-related mental health disorders, are on death rows across America. Many others with similar problems have already been executed. And in a disturbing number of cases, these veterans' service and related illnesses were barely touched on as their lives were being weighed by judges and juries." Read more at www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/veterans and at www.deathpenalty.org/article.php?id=842 ***ALSO SEE THE ITEM IMMEDIATELY BELOW.***

The fascinating short documentary "Last Day of Freedom" about Manny Babbitt, a man who was mentally disabled by his experiences as a Marine fighting in Vietnam. This powerful documentary is shortlisted for the 2016 Academy Awards in the Documentary Short Subject category. This documentary is a visually compelling illustrated narration by Manny Babbitt's brother telling what happened. The surviving brother testified to a Washington State legislative committee about why we need a law prohibiting the execution of people who are severely mentally ill. Watch this powerful 27-minute documentary at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5diBuNHV75U ***ALSO SEE THE ITEM IMMEDIATELY ABOVE.***

New information about how black people are excluded from juries: Read it at this link: www.tinyurl.com/q36q53x

Racial bias in Washington State's death penalty jury decisions: The Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) (www.deathpenaltyinfo) reported that jurors in Washington State are more likely to impose death on black defendants. The DPIC's website says: "According to a recent study by Professor Katherine Beckett of the University of Washington, jurors in **Washington** are three times more likely to recommend a death sentence for a black defendant than for a white defendant in a similar case. The disparity in sentencing occurred despite the fact that prosecutors were slightly more likely to seek the death penalty against white defendants. The study examined 285 cases in which defendants were convicted of aggravated murder. The cases were analyzed for factors that might influence sentencing, including the number of victims, the prior criminal record of the defendant, and the number of aggravating factors alleged by the prosecutor. See information released on January 27, 2014, at www.tinyurl.com/nupflyz

A totally innocent black defendant spent 30 years on death row, including much time in solitary confinement. Finally the prosecutor apologizes. An incompetent defense attorney and other factors contributed toward this horrible injustice. See the fascinating story here: www.tinyurl.com/onntuau

Fascinating and informative article about death penalty sentencing: This article provides information about mental illness, low IQ, and other mental issues and the death penalty. This article really is worth reading. www.tinyurl.com/ne3kk6o

About 2% of the US's counties produce MOST of our nation's death sentences: For example, the article at the link below mentions, "A mere two percent of U.S. counties are responsible for more than half of the executions carried out since 1976, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Moreover, just two percent of U.S. counties account for nearly 60 percent of the nation's current death row population." The article at this link focuses on one county prosecutor in Oklahoma who has sent 54 persons to death row: www.tinyurl.com/nzggva7

In early November 2015 Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah " reported from Nebraska that state's ridiculous mess about the death penalty: Equal Justice USA, (www.ejusa.org), a nationwide non-profit organization working to abolish the death penalty, summarized what happened: Earlier this year Nebraska's legislature voted overwhelmingly to end the death penalty, the Governor vetoed the repeal, but a big majority of Senators overrode his veto. Then he and his cronies spent huge amounts of money to put the issue on the ballot in November 2016. Meanwhile, the Governor's attempts to restart executions have been a boondoggle. He even blew \$54,000 in taxpayer money on execution drugs that the FDA said are illegal. The main abolition organization is Nebraskans for Public Safety, www.NebraskansforPublicSafety.org

An extremely rich person supports campaign to bring death penalty back to Nebraska: Nebraska's Republican-dominated legislature overwhelmingly voted to abolish that state's death penalty. When the governor vetoed the bill, the legislature overturned the veto, but the governor found a rich supporter to help him create a ballot measure for 2016 that he hopes will result in the voters bringing Nebraska's death penalty back. See info at www.tinyurl.com/ptvue3y Fortunately, Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty is vigorously active. See their info at www.nadp.net

California proposes new regulations for lethal injection for 4th time in 10 years: In late October 2015, California's prison system proposed new regulations that would allow it to start executing people with lethal injection. Various legal problems have been preventing executions for nearly ten years. California more people on death row (746) than any other state in the US. Read article at www.deathpenalty.org/article.php?id=841 and a related article at www.tinyurl.com/ps57jbq

Connecticut abolished the death penalty in 2012 and commuted 11 men's sentences in 2015: In 2012 when Connecticut abolished the death penalty, it did not change the sentences of the eleven men who were already on death row. In August 2015 Connecticut's Supreme Court ruled 4-3 against killing any prisoners, so they were moved into the general prison population. The 4-3 ruling was not a numerical landslide, but Connecticut's Supreme Court's reasoning and wording were very strong. Connecticut's 2012 legislative accomplishment was not unique. Sometimes (e.g., in Connecticut and New Mexico) a state government abolishes the death penalty but leaves anyone on death row still there. Perhaps legislatures do not make abolition retroactive in order to attract legislators who would not want to commute the sentences of persons already sentenced to death. In those states, someone must act to clean up that shortcoming. In Connecticut's case, the state's Supreme Court did it. Read more in one article at www.tinyurl.com/qcsuq5q and another article at www.tinyurl.com/q8g4skj and another at www.tinyurl.com/pkfczud

INNOCENT Richard Glossip is still on death row but came within 3 hours of execution. Here are two articles about this grossly unjust case: His mid-September stay of execution just three hours before his scheduled execution protected him through September 30. More legal wrangling is continuing in this grossly unjust Oklahoma case. Here are **TWO ARTICLES** about Richard Glossip's case, shortly before the stay was issued: **ARTICLE #1** is a very detailed article by Jordan Smith and Liliana Segura at the *Intercept*, which provides much information and shows how weak the state's case against Glossip is: www.tinyurl.com/pz4d9bp Near the end of this long article above, you can see how a police interrogator's assumption pushed the actual murderer into falsely implicating Glossip, and you can see how Glossip's defense attorney was terribly ineffective. False testimony – which seems to have

happened in this case – is a very, very common reason why innocent people are convicted of murder. This terrible combination – sloppy police work, false testimony, and ineffective defense attorney – seems to have led to this innocent person being sent to death row. **The article reports that ten persons on Oklahoma’s death row have been exonerated. Four of these have involved false testimony by snitches.** This is similar to the nationwide data about snitches causing innocent people to be convicted of murder. **ARTICLE #2** is a more recent article from the *Guardian* providing new evidence that came to light more recently. In a case that has drawn the attention of Sr. Helen Prejean, Susan Sarandon, and Senator Tom Coburn, attorney says Glossip was sentenced to death ‘because he’s poor’ as lawyers race to win a stay before Wednesday’s scheduled execution. See the article at <http://gu.com/p/4cbd6/sbl>

Richard Glossip's poverty is a major reason why he is on death row: www.tinyurl.com/pscbfbv **Also see this from Democracy Now!** tinyurl.com/qjow9f8

Several problems about Oklahoma’s lethal injection: tinyurl.com/nzjex3o

Screw-ups and secrecy plague the lethal injection crisis: www.tinyurl.com/pxa6xee

Saudi Arabia – one of the world’s leading users of the death penalty – grossly lacks due process: While the US condemns ISIS for beheading people, Saudi Arabia – a major US ally – uses beheading for a majority of the executions it carries out every year. Saudi Arabia executes more people than any other nation in the world, except China. The US government provides billions of dollars of military weapons to Saudi Arabia every year, and supports Saudi Arabia’s committing horrible war crimes in Yemen, Bahrain and elsewhere. Amnesty International recently criticized Saudi Arabia’s 175 executions in a recent 12 month period. See this August 2015 article at www.tinyurl.com/ogud9bz

Pope Francis calls for global abolition of death penalty and other justice reforms: Before a joint session of Congress – a first for any Pope – Pope Francis called for an end to the death penalty around the globe. He praised efforts for repeal in the U.S., including the work of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Importantly, he linked the issue with a broader theme of criminal justice reform, saying, “I also offer encouragement to all those who are convinced that a just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation.” See this information from Equal Justice USA (www.ejusa.org): www.tinyurl.com/q3o4azg

Pope Francis told Congress to abolish the death penalty! www.tinyurl.com/ptsaf6r8

National Association of Evangelicals raises both social and theological concerns about the death penalty: After this huge organization’s decades of support for the death penalty, this is really big news! The NAE’s new resolution does not exactly oppose the death penalty, but it expresses support for Christians who work to abolish the death penalty, and it identifies some social and theological concerns. An article about this stated, “The word *evangelical* comes from the Greek word *εὐαγγέλιον* and it means ‘good news.’ At the center of this ‘good news’ is a belief that no one is beyond redemption.” The article continued, “We sing songs like “Amazing Grace” that insist on God’s power to save sinners. We have doctrines stating that Jesus died so that we might be spared death. The Scripture we love so much is filled with murderers who were given a second chance -- leaders like Moses, David, Saul of Tarsus. The Bible would be much shorter without grace. But for far too long we’ve missed the fact that every time we execute someone we undermine the very message of God’s redeeming love.” The NAE represents some 10 million Christians in the US. The article also said, “With the statement of the NAE, I believe we got one step closer to the end of the death penalty. Grace has a foot in the door of evangelicalism. The new resolution is one small step for the NAE, but it is one giant leap for abolition.” And the article said that older evangelicals who support the death penalty are aging out, while younger ones want to abolish it.

Young libertarians question the death penalty: Opposition to the death penalty is growing among political conservatives in addition to religious conservatives. Equal Justice USA (www.ejusa.org), a great non-profit organization that opposes the death penalty, has been reaching out to religious conservatives and political conservatives to bring them into the abolition movement. EJUSA’s Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty (CCATDP) project spoke to a standing room only crowd of young liberty activists at a recent Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) National Conference. YAL members at the workshop learned more about the death penalty and the movement to end it. One participant approached EJUSA’s Marc Hyden after the workshop with a confession. “I came here tonight for the sole purpose of heckling you,” he said. “Now I am 100% with you.” Read more at this link: www.tinyurl.com/nnfrhgx

Taxpayers would be alarmed to learn how expensive death penalty cases are: In states with the death penalty, taxpayers are sentenced to financial burdens, but taxpayers are not aware of how much money the death penalty wastes, so they are not making informed choices. The costs are with the original trials (two trials per case – one for guilt/innocence, and one to determine the sentence). These original trials have become horribly complex because experience shows that many, many things can go wrong with death penalty trials, so the trials have had to become more and more complex – and hence horribly expensive. (Appeals add only very little to the cost of the death penalty.) Of course, most other nations that use the death penalty (China, Saudi Arabia, etc.) do not have

anything at all like the U.S.'s trials with (alleged) due process. They easily and quickly condemn people at virtually no cost. The U.S. stands virtually alone in the world with the WORST of both situations: Huge cost and heavy use.

The death penalty hurts the workers in our nation's prisons: The Olympia FOR's death penalty committee has discussed this in recent years. See new information about this additional harmful aspect of the death penalty: www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/node/6271

Mistaken eyewitness identification is THE LARGEST SINGLE REASON why innocent people are convicted and sentenced to death: Elizabeth Loftus, a respected University of Washington faculty member in psychology, has conducted research showing how unreliable eyewitness testimony and other aspects of memory can be. You can search the web for information about her and her work. Try searching for topics (and combinations of topics) such as "Elizabeth Loftus" + "eyewitness error" + "innocence" + "false memory" For example, www.scientificamerican.com/article/do-the-eyes-have-it is an article in the 2009 issue of *Scientific American*. It mentions the case of Kirk Bloodsworth, who – although completely innocent – was convicted of murder and sentenced to death, largely based on testimony by FIVE EYEWITNESSES:

87 Reasons to Rethink the Death Penalty: Execution was meant for the worst of the worst. Research shows that's far from the reality. See this article from *Mother Jones* magazine: www.tinyurl.com/ne3kk6o

Finally a major presidential candidate (Bernie Sanders) calls for abolishing the death penalty: See info at www.tinyurl.com/o5l6467

Washington State's prosecuting attorneys want clarity about public opinion about death penalty and are asking 2016 Legislature to put a referendum on the November 2016 ballot: Mainstream media reported in mid-November 2015 that King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg and the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys want the Legislature to do this. For example, see the *Seattle Times* article at www.tinyurl.com/ng4kylg and a KUOW radio broadcast at tinyurl.com/oredm5g Also, here is the statement by the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys: www.tinyurl.com/qdar3wm A referendum is NOT necessarily a good thing for people who oppose the death penalty. We would need to work very, very hard to build a huge, broad-based grassroots movement to move public opinion statewide and move Washington's voters to vote against the death penalty. We would need a great many volunteers and much hard work! See below for several ways we could do this.

The proposed referendum (see above) would allow state legislators to "pass the buck" and "punt" this controversy to the state's voters: This would be politically attractive to some legislators, because instead of the Legislature voting to abolish the death penalty, it would shift the burden to us. We don't know how many legislators might support or oppose a referendum. The worrisome fact is that we do not currently have the grassroots people-power to win a statewide ballot issue about abolishing the death penalty. We would have to immediately build a massive grassroots movement and campaign with ideas such as those listed below.

While public opinion nationwide has been shifting against the death penalty, has it shifted enough in Washington State? See two items early in the **DEATH PENALTY NEWS** section above. Our job is to clearly move our state's public opinion so we could win a ballot issue in November 2016 if the Legislature puts a referendum on that ballot. (NOTE: This would be a "referendum" put on the ballot by the state legislature, not an "initiative" put there by citizen signatures.)

Do prosecutors want clarity about whether to seek death sentences or a voter-implied mandate to continue seeking them? If voters say no to the death penalty, this would save prosecutors the decision that some of them find agonizing, and it would save them the risk of losing a death sentence (after great expense to the county's taxpayers). On the other hand, perhaps some prosecutors do not so much seek honest clarity about the decision as they seek voter approval to continue charging murder cases with possible death sentences, and to set back the movement to abolish the death penalty.

Current situation: Since 1993 Washington State executed five persons (most recently in 2010), and nine others are on death row. Although our current Governor Jay Inslee says he will not execute anyone while he is governor, death penalty cases currently underway can continue unimpeded except not to the final step of execution, and prosecutors can bring death penalty charges to any new cases that arise.

In any case, our task is clear: Build a strong statewide movement to abolish the death penalty. Right now there are no high-profile death penalty cases in Washington, so actually this is a good time to build a statewide abolition movement free from contamination by any specific case that has "demonized" a defendant as a "monster." As always, we need to think strategically about how best to do this. The current context of a possible referendum on the November 2016 ballot might sharpen our strategies. **See more information below about what we can – and must – do.**

NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN THE MOVEMENT TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

SEE THE PAGES ABOVE FOR RECENT NEWS. TO MAKE PROGRESS, SEE BELOW.

Public opinion is turning against the death penalty nationwide and in Washington State: The nationwide momentum to abolish the death penalty includes reasons and strategies that we could use here. Regardless of a possible statewide referendum mentioned in paragraphs above, the historical momentum is on our side, so now is the time to strengthen the grassroots movement to abolish the death penalty in Washington State and nationwide. We can learn from the several states that have abolished it in recent years as we devise strategies and activities specifically for various parts of Washington State. The Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty is planning several strategically useful activities for 2016. We encourage other nonprofit organizations to do this too. We invite people to help with the ones for which they have skills, contact, or enthusiasm.

Successful movements for progressive social and political change come from the grassroots up: When a strong majority insists on solving a problem, the responsible governmental officials and bodies can get "unstuck" from the status quo and yield to public pressure. Small handfuls of people in various parts of our state can use several smart strategies and activities, such as:

- An ongoing statewide campaign of writing letters to newspaper editors. Each person can write a letter based on his or her own important reasons for abolishing the death penalty. This variety of letters will reach a variety of readers who will be moved by the various approaches. These might include moral reasons, risks of executing innocent people, waste of our tax dollars, racial bias, legal and constitutional reasons, religious reasons, etc. Different readers will be moved by different kinds of reasons. We can reach out through our various networks of people (non-profit organizations, faith-based congregations, professional colleagues, etc.) to encourage other people to participate. Start now, and keep this up through Election Day, November 8, 2016.
- Urge our respective local governments around the state to take a modest action like the City of Seattle did. Replicate in other cities, towns and counties the successful effort to have the Seattle City Council, the Mayor (Ed Murray), and the City Attorney (Pete Holmes) write a letter to the state legislators representing Seattle, urging them to abolish the death penalty. Here is the link to that letter: www.tinyurl.com/pc94tyl When such an effort is being organized and being considered by a local government, this creates much publicity in local news media, it allows organizers to be interviewed by journalists so they can explain why Washington State should abolish the death penalty, and why the county could save the unnecessary additional costs of death penalty prosecutions and sentencing. All of this would engage local people in conversations about the death penalty and win more people over to our side. Also, it would show prosecutors and legislators that the public wants to abolish the death penalty. Conducting these kinds of campaigns in local governments statewide would significantly build the abolition movement and make it more "politically safe" for legislators (and candidates running for office in 2016) to come out against the death penalty. Furthermore, short-term issue-based campaigns such as these local letter-writing campaigns would publicize the existence of the grassroots movement to abolish the death penalty and recruit new people into it. Perhaps each local community organizing such a letter-writing campaign can not only succeed with that goal but also produce a local grassroots organization that will continue to exist and continue to organize through other methods toward abolishing the death penalty.
- Urge people throughout the state to participate in the Lobby Day that the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (WCADP) is organizing for the State Capitol on TUES JAN 26. Let's urge people to sign up to participate through the link WCADP created: www.tinyurl.com/prqr6pt
- That same evening is when Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty will meet at 7:00 pm at a comfortable, easy-to-find home on Olympia's West Side. Perhaps some Lobby Day participants would like to join us. Also, Glen Anderson (glen@olympiafor.org 360-491-9093) invites anyone interested to come to his easy-to-find home in Lacey in late afternoon (after Lobby Day but before our evening meeting) for conversations and/or workshop sessions about strategies toward abolishing the death penalty.
- Now is the time when people around the state are thinking about – or already deciding – to run for state legislative positions and county prosecuting attorney positions in the November 2016 election. During the campaign season, which is starting already, candidates are most willing and accessible to meeting with voters about issues. Most legislative candidates have probably not thought much about the death penalty and are probably poorly informed. Let's educate them now and win their allegiance for abolition before "tough-on-crime" people contaminate their thinking. Each community has people who are knowledgeable about electoral politics and could help us find out who is planning to run for office. These conversations would be good to pursue even

before actual filing dates, after which you can search for candidates through governmental sources (e.g., county elections offices, WA Secretary of State, WA Public Disclosure Commission).

- To reach people in a good number of grassroots communities in different parts of the state, Glen Anderson offers to conduct various speaking engagements and/or workshops in the spring of 2016 (perhaps early April, late April, early May, late May). One tour could go through Eastern Washington, another in the counties north of King County (Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island, San Juan), another in NW Washington (from Mason and Grays Harbor Counties up throughout the Olympic Peninsula) and/or another in SW Washington (Lewis, Cowlitz, Clark, and westward from Grays Harbor south along the Pacific Coast). Glen would need help from compatible organizations (WCADP, SJA, ACLU-W, Western Washington FOR, PJALS, colleges/universities, several faith-based groups, etc.) to find local contact persons who could organize these local gigs and stimulate local abolition groups. Our experience has shown that innocent persons released from death row and other knowledgeable, articulate speakers can draw audiences too. Now is the time for much grassroots outreach to various kinds of audiences throughout our entire state.

Let's devise smart outreach strategies: Perhaps the movement to abolish the death penalty could make more progress if we were to appeal to the general public's **needs, concerns and values**. (And ALSO the needs, concerns and values of **sub-populations within the general public**.) Perhaps a small number of people could spend some time exploring – and taking notes from – something like this four-step process:

1. What research, other information, and other insights suggest what the general public (and its sub-populations) **feels that it needs, concerns and values**? We might brainstorm and discuss more examples in addition to these:
 - Safe from crime
 - Feel moral and righteous as an individual
 - Protect human life
 - Have our society and our criminal justice system function fairly, justly, and effectively
 - Save taxpayers' money from waste and inefficiency
2. How does the death penalty **MEET** or **FAIL TO MEET** these needs, concerns and values?
3. How could we engage the general public in considering our answers to Question 2?
4. What next steps could help us move our answers to Question 3 into a workable plan that we could use locally?

Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty now has a Facebook page: We call it "Olympia Neighbors Against the Death Penalty. Please see it at <https://www.facebook.com/OlympiaNeighborsAgainstTheDeathPenalty/> and "LIKE" it and share it with your friends!

90 million Americans oppose the death penalty. The new "90 Million Strong Campaign" brings together many organizations and individuals to work to abolish it. See www.90millionstrong.org The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP) is one of the campaign's founders. See www.ncadp.org and www.ncadp.org/page/s/90-million-strong-campaign Also, you can sign the pledge to help #HaltAllExecutions at this link: www.tinyurl.com/q3psdv7

The Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC, www.deathpenaltyinfo.org) is a TRULY EXCELLENT source of information: It keeps right on top of the news nationwide, state-by-state, and also by issue (e.g., race, innocence, cost). For example, you can see background information and the latest news about the death penalty in Washington State at www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/washington-1

Learn about and discuss the Death Penalty in Olympia FOR's 6-Session Study Group with optional faith-based materials: Many people would like to learn more about the death penalty and discuss it with a small group of other compatible people, so the Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty drew upon a variety of resources to create a six-session study group with many readings and some audio-visual parts. We offer this to existing community groups or new groups, and we can include or exclude optional interfaith resources. The six-part study series addresses many aspects of the death penalty, including innocence, racial and economic class bias, cost, victims, legal history, and other factors. It also will include insights from a variety of faith perspectives. Participants will read and discuss a great variety of printed materials, watch three compelling short videos, and share their own insights. Are you interested? Can you arrange with a faith-based group or another group to host this series? Please contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY #1: Hear Nate Fields, an innocent man who served 20 years on death row, and also meet active abolitionists and raise funds for the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty: See our December 2015 newsletter's calendar listing for **Wed Dec 9, 2015, evening** in Seattle. RSVP through www.tinyurl.com/qeews9 or visit and share WCADP's Facebook event page, <https://www.facebook.com/events/772950796160687/> For more info contact

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UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY #2: Lobby Washington State Legislature on TUES. JAN. 26, 2016, to abolish the death penalty: Every year the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (WCADP, www.abolishdeathpenalty.org) organizes a Lobby Day so ordinary Washingtonians can visit our state legislators and urge them to abolish this cruel, wasteful, ineffectual practice. In 2016 the WCADP's Lobby Day will be on **Tues Jan 26**. Sign up now through this link: www.tinyurl.com/prqr6pt