



Florida **D**eath **R**ow **A**dvocacy **G**roup
Working to maintain and improve living conditions for death row in Florida

FDRAG
c/o Diana Thornton
Albion Cottages, 2 Beehive Street, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN22 6JE
England

Newsletter # 31 December 2013



Note from Geesje:

Jojo Farr made the decision, for personal reasons, to step down as Director of FDRAG. We are all truly sorry to see her go and are grateful to her for all the time and attention that she gave to FDRAG through the years. I have taken over as the Director and promise to continue the FDRAG legacy as best as I can. Janneke van Steenbergen will be assistant Director. I look forward working together with her and with the rest of this wonderful group of dedicated people. Have a blessed Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year. Take care.

Geesje de Jong



The Christmas season is almost upon us and we are glad we were able to fill all the Angeltree and Christmas card requests this year, with many thanks to everyone who helped make this happen! We want to thank you for the letters you sent to us with well wishes and also much thanks to the guys who sent us stamps, we want you to know how much we appreciate this!

Monday 11 November 2013. In an interview with the Guardian, former US president Jimmy Carter has called for a new nationwide moratorium on the death penalty, arguing that it is applied so unfairly across the 32 states that still have the death sentence that it amounts to a form of cruel and unusual punishment prohibited under the US constitution. "Its time for the supreme court to look at the totality of the death penalty once again," Carter said. "My preference would be for the court to rule that it is cruel and unusual punishment, which would make it prohibitive under the US constitution"

Cowboy and Sweet, who were for a long time among you, are sending their best wishes and greeting to all of you and wish you all the best for the Holiday season!

FDRAG sends warmest Christmas wishes and blessings for the New Year to all of you. Peace & Hope, that you may stay healthy & safe, from all of us at FDRAG!

We will try to make a newsletter like this one every 3 months. We are depending on members and volunteers to print and send the newsletters and to make this easier and more affordable we will keep the newsletters relatively short, Please share this newsletter with others who did not receive one because, for now, we are not able to cover every one of you.

Do send us your ideas & suggestions for the next newsletter. We love hearing from you! Our next newsletter will be due around Febr/March 2014

On our website www.fdrag.kk5.org we have a section Faces of Death Row, dedicated to you. We will post your art work, poems, or life story. Please keep written pieces to 1,000 words or less. Also, if you have a blog or a website send us the link and we will post it on the site.

Money orders

As of July 1st, 2013, all money orders must be made payable to JPay and sent with a deposit slip to JPay, P.O. Box 260010, Hollywood, FL 33026. Effective October 1, 2013 money orders sent to the DOC Central Office in Tallahassee will be returned to sender. Funds will be available to the inmate within ten business days - though JPay will make every effort to make funds available sooner. Please note the \$0.50 bank processing fee will still be assessed by the Department of Corrections for a money order deposited to the inmate's account.

JPay eMail Letters

As of October 24th, 2013 JPay is no longer offering the eMail by Post for inmates in the Florida State Prison System. All correspondence addressed to inmates must be sent by U.S. Postal Service mail. Correspondence sent by other courier or delivery services will be refused.

Inmate Internet Presence – Proposed FDOC rule Withdrawn

07/29/13 FDOC proposed rule F.A.C. 33-602.208, that would ban inmates from having any Internet presence, and ban inmates from having a third party post any information on the Internet on their behalf. In other words, inmate website and blogs would be prohibited. Florida Justice Institute (FJI), the Florida Institutional Legal Services Project of Florida Legal Services (FILS), and the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida (ACLU-FL) protested this proposed rule citing violation of the First Amendment and on 08/20/13 this proposed rule was withdrawn by FDOC. So for the ones of you with websites or blogs online, they are **safe**, as long as you're not soliciting for penpals, which is still prohibited.

Requests that came in:

- We have been getting requests for winter clothes (thermal underwear and other).

Please note that at this moment we are not able to fill these requests but we will try to get donations and if we succeed in our efforts we will contact you again. We will only be able to help you when you are indigent, please understand that we have to be very careful with any funds donated to us.

- We also received a request for the End of Year Death Penalty report from the Death Penalty Information Center. If you are interested in receiving this report let us know and we will send it to you as soon as it becomes available for 2013.
- Requests for canteen money – We are unfortunately not able to send canteen money.

FDRAG is offering a **money order of 25 dollar** to the winner of this challenging Einstein **Puzzle**. One name will be drawn from among the winners (if any!) Please send your answers, before February 1, to: FDRAG-CARDS, 325 Garden Lane, Atlantic Beach



Einstein's Riddle!

There are 5 houses in 5 different colors. In each house lives a person with a different nationality. The 5 owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar, and keep a certain pet. No owners have the same pet, smoke the same brand of cigar, or drink the same beverage.

The question is: **Who owns the fish?**

Hints:

- The Brit lives in the red house.
- The Swede keeps dogs as pets.
- The Dane drinks tea.
- The green house is on the left of the white house.
- The green homeowner drinks coffee.
- The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds.
- The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill.
- The man living in the center house drinks milk.
- The Norwegian lives in the first house.
- The man who smokes Blend lives next to the one who keeps cats.
- The man who keeps the horse lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill.
- The owner who smokes Bluemaster drinks beer.
- The German smokes prince.
- The Norwegian lives next to the blue house.
- The man who smokes Blend has a neighbor who drinks water.

Einstein wrote this riddle early during the 19th century. He said 98% of the world could **not** solve it, we hope the Einsteins among you will!

Message from Hannah: Hey everyone. How time flies. Come February it has been 4 years since I left Florida, and it feels like a lifetime! Lots have happened, both good and bad, but now things have finally settled. Stephanie is home in Denmark with the rest of the family, together with her 3 year old son Dominic. Emilie had her second babyboy, his name is Eli and he is 7 months old. Nathaniel is 4 years old and keeping me young. I am done studying in 6 month and can call myself a Waldorff teacher. Took me 50 years to know what I wanted to be when I grew up:-) We all live in the same neighborhood as most of our family which is a blessing after 11 years away from everyone. It's so nice to be a part of the everyday life of nieces and nephews, sisters and brothers, and of course my son, and my dad. I am now, after almost 4 years, able to talk about my years with Florida's death row, without bursting into tears, which is part of why I am writing this. I think I have healed enough to deal with all the pain and injustices again, on a small scale. After all, I had some of my happiest time there too, and lots and lots of blessings. I was close to God and witnessed miracles I can only believe took place looking back. I do often think about you guys, how you are? Do you still have loved ones in your lives to bring you hope? How are your cases going? Some of you I got to know pretty well, and that was a blessing. Trust is essential in life, and regardless of time and distances I hope you can understand and forgive that I disappeared the way I did. Life just caught up with me, close family needed me, and I have always followed my heart. I wish you all Peace and Joy this Christmas Season. IF any of you need to write me, contact FDRAG and I will get your letter. I wish you all Peace at Heart, Hannah



In Memoriam

Remembering those we have lost on the row in 2013. May they now R.I.P.

Gary Alvord
10 January 1947 – 19 May 2013

Luis Caballero
23 September 1973 – 13 September 2013

Elmer Carroll
19 August 1956 – 29 May 2013

Jesus Delgado
15 April 1965 – 5 January 2013

John Ferguson
27 February 1948 – 5 August 2013

Olen Gorby
27 November 1949 – 13 May 2013

Marshall Gore
17 August 1963 – 1 October 2013

William Happ
19 January 1962 – 15 October 2013

Darius Kimbrough
4 December 1972 – 12 November 2013

Larry Mann
9 June 1953 – 10 April 2013

William Van Poyck
4 July 1954 – 12 June 2013

Peter Ventura
14 July 1935 – 24 January 2013

Thomas Wyatt
6 January 1964 – 8 February 2013

Tommy Groover
3 April 1958 – 25 October 2013

Our thoughts and prayers are with all their families, friends, penfriends and friends they have left behind on the row.



FDRAG is dedicated to working to improve the living conditions on death row in Florida and we are here to try to help you with your concerns, complaints, issues etc., but we unfortunately can't help with most legal issues or financial help. For those who would like help from FDRAG, we do ask that you contact us directly. Please do not ask others to ask for our help, except in special circumstances, of course. When we are contacted directly, we can decide if we can help and how, or why we can't. All the best on behalf of,
The Florida Death Row Advocacy Group (FDRAG) www.fdrag.kk5.org

FDRAG Director
Geesje de Jong
Lykourgou 21,
15231 Chalandri,
Athens, Greece

FDRAG Assistant Director
Janneke van Steenberg
Maasdijk 1c W/S LEBA
5317 KP Nederhemert- Noord
The Netherlands