

KeizerCommunity

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Death penalty discourse draws celebrity to Keizer

For Becky O'Neil McBrayer, "closure" is something that belongs solely in the realm of real estate.

"There isn't closure for murder family victims," said O'Neil at an annual meeting and fundraiser at Keizer Civic Center for the Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. "Killing the killer doesn't bring anybody back, it doesn't solve anything, it protects no one, but what it does do is create more victims."

O'Neil McBrayer, whose mother and stepfather were killed by her brother, Joe in 2006, was representing Murder Victim Families for Reconciliation during her talk. Her talk preceded celebrity keynote speaker actor Mike Farrell, famous for roles in *M*A*S*H* and *Providence* as well as being an outspoken opponent of the death penalty.

O'Neil McBrayer said her brother became "increasingly odd as a teenager and it progressed well into his 20s. My family didn't know much about family illness and even in the weeks leading up to the murder, despite some red flags, we didn't really know how to help Joe even though we were trying."

She and another brother

discovered the bodies of her mother and stepfather a day after they had each been stabbed 17 times.

"We were threatened or tempted — I'm not sure which — with the death penalty by Clackamas County prosecutors," she said. "One prosecutor told us that our brother was exactly the kind of person the death penalty was designed for."

She said she pleaded with the judge to spare Joe's life. He is currently serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole after pleading guilty to two counts of murder.

"It was resolution in terms of judicial justice. I still relive it every day, but I never have to step foot in a courtroom again," she said. "Let's turn our attention to healing and growth. We can direct pain into meaningful activities, learn to smile again and love life again. Killing the killer won't achieve any of those things. Let's be one of the next states to say, 'Not in our name.'"

Farrell relayed numerous

tales of getting to know death row inmates, but was far more fiery in his approach to the need to move beyond capital punishment.

"The death penalty is the lid to the garbage can and, once we take the lid off, we will be forced to look into the

"We were threatened or tempted — I'm not sure which — with the death penalty."

— Becky O'Neil McBrayer

rotten, stinking mess that is our criminal justice system," Farrell said. "(The death penalty) is primarily used against the poor and poorly-

defended. It is far more expensive than life without parole."

A study published in January out of Seattle University estimated that the average death penalty case costs Washington taxpayers an average of about \$1 million more than cases where the death penalty was not sought.

"We imperil ourselves and our nation if we do not understand that at the core of all rights and struggles is the demand that we honor and value all of our citizens' unalienable right to life," Farrell said.

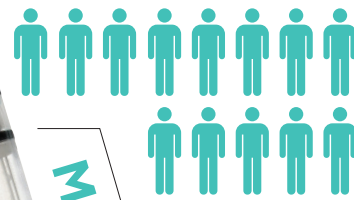
THE DEATH PENALTY IN OREGON

YEAR OF LAST EXECUTION

1997

1978

Year the death penalty was affirmed as just punishment by United States Supreme Court



CURRENT NUMBER OF MEN ON DEATH ROW



CURRENT NUMBER OF WOMEN ON DEATH ROW



\$\$\$

COST of an aggravated murder case... in which death penalty is on the table

\$438,651*

in which death penalty is NOT on the table **\$216,693***

Number of executions since 1978: **2**

2011

Former Gov. John Kitzhaber declared a moratorium on executions.

Since taking office in February, Gov. Kate Brown has said she will continue the moratorium...

"I am convinced we can find a better solution that keeps society safe, supports the victims of crime and their families and reflects Oregon values."

— GOVERNOR KATE BROWN, 2015

*According to a study of Oregon cases published in the Lewis & Clark review in 2013. Other information compiled from multiple sources.

KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson



What names are you called at work?



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Marcelina, hospice aide

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Africa on display at KHM

African exhibits are on display until Aug. 1 at the Keizer Heritage Museum and Keizer Community Library, both on the ground floor of the Keizer Heritage Center, 980 Chemawa Road NE.

Dr. and Mrs. LeRoy Judd, missionary teachers in various African countries for 40 years, focus the Heritage Museum display on the country of Kenya. A collection of musical instruments, sisal and baobab fiber baskets, household objects, Kitege fabrics and paintings are included in the display.

A highlight of the Museum exhibit is the painting titled "Grace's Grandma." Grace, a student of Mrs. Judd, had proudly invited Dr. Judd and

his family to visit her home, but she neglected to mention that there was no road leading to the homestead. Soon the Judds found themselves driving on cow paths and then a dry river bed. Dr. Judd also remembers it as the only time he was asked to preach seven different sermons in one day, walking from farm to farm.

As their farewell gift, Grace's grandmother gave them a large, black goat that was carefully laid in the back of the station wagon on a bed of green leaves. For the several-hour drive home, the goat would bleat at every jolt and bump, greatly amusing the three children. Mrs. Judd, who was teaching art at a high school, celebrated the occasion by creating a small

portrait for a larger painting. The Judds served with the Africa Inland Mission in Tanzania, Kenya and Namibia. Dr. Judd taught in theological colleges and seminaries and also conducted a church orchestra, working especially with the brass section. Mrs. Judd taught art in high school and the women's prison as well as private music lessons.

The Judds retired from work in Africa in 2014. Mrs. Judd now teaches private strings and piano lessons and plays cello for the Salem Pops Orchestra. Dr. Judd serves as a volunteer at Keizer Community Church and the Keizer Community Library, where his display features Namibia. He also plays horn for the Salem Pops and Salem Philharmonic Orchestras.

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8:30 am • 10 am • 11:30 am • 6 pm
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4500 LANCASTER DR NE | SALEM
503.304.4000 • www.peopleschurch.com

SAINT EDWARD Catholic Church
393-5323
5303 River Rd. N., Keizer
Father Gary L. Zerr, Pastor
Saturday Vigil Liturgy: 5:30 p.m.
Sundays: 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
La Misa en Español: 12:30 p.m.

John Knox Presbyterian Church
452 Cummings Lane North • 393-0404
Rev. Dr. John Neal, Pastor
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Education Hour - 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Care Available
www.keizerjkpres.org

Faith Lutheran Church
4505 River Rd N • 393-4507
Sunday Schedule:
9:00 a.m. Children's Church
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Children's Activities
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
Pastor Virginia Eggert

dayspring fellowship
Celebration Services
Saturday Evening 6:00 pm
Sunday Morning 9:00 am and 10:45 am
Children's Programs, Student and Adult Ministries
1755 Lockhaven Dr. NE Keizer
503-390-3900
www.dayspringfellowship.com

Keizer Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
6945 Wheatland Rd. NE 393-6843
Pastor Bob Arnold
3 and 4 year Old Pre-School
Worship and Children's Church • 10:00 a.m.
Office Hours 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

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820 Jefferson St. NE
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Dr. Jon F. Langenwaller, Pastor
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