

## 'Wound-Wound' on display at USD

The John A. Day Gallery at the University of South Dakota is currently featuring "Wound-Wound," artwork by Anila Quayyum Agha, which is on display through Thursday, Jan. 30.

In addition to the exhibition, the artist will present a lecture about her work at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23, in room 172 in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts.

There will also be an artist's reception in the Day Gallery from 5-7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 24.

Agha is assistant professor of drawing at the Herron School of Art at IUPUI in Indianapolis, IN. She was born Lahore, Pakistan and completed her B.F.A. in textile arts at the National College of Arts and her M.F.A. in fiber arts at the University of North Texas. Agha's work has been exhibited nationally

and internationally in more than 10 solo shows and 40 group shows.

In "Wound-Wound," several new pieces are featured by Agha, who is known for her multi-media works that incorporate textiles, wax, drawing, and printmaking techniques.

In her piece, "A Flood of Tears," Agha addresses the 2010 Pakistani floods that impacted 20 million people. Agha looks to the use of textiles, embroidery, and patterns as a means to explore violence, death, and femininity in Pakistani culture.

The John A. Day Gallery is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To learn more about the University Art Galleries, visit [www.usd.edu/uag](http://www.usd.edu/uag) or "Like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/University-Art-Galleries-University-of-South-Dakota/192268047504339>.

### Pulpit Reflections:

# A matter of conscience

By Deacon Denny Davis

Supporters of the death penalty justify it by saying it's the consequence of the criminal's terrible actions. The death penalty is not about what the murderers have done. It's about what we as citizens do in response. South Dakota should repeal the death penalty. Doing so would reflect on each of us, and our actions as citizens.

As director of South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty I traveled the state, speaking to groups about our law. My efforts have nothing to do with argument or criticism. I simply ask this question: Do we have to kill human beings who murder?

When our state carries out this act, we are responsible as much as those in the death chamber. The zero-sum game of killing for murder should be rejected. As citizens and as people of faith, it reflects poorly on us, and life in prison without parole is a much more sane and just response. Violence, even that sponsored by the state, merely perpetuates more violence.

But we can approach even the worst criminals in a better and smarter way. Instead of putting needles into their arms and stopping their hearts, we should make convicted murderers live out their lives in prison. Doing so creates the opportunity for their reconciliation with God and with themselves. When the murderer is executed, it makes absolute — which can benefit both the killer and victim — impossible. Would not restoration of the criminal, instead of retribution, be more in line with what our Creator asks of us? As we learned in Deuteronomy Chapter 30, "Choose life, so that you and your descendants may live." (Verse 19.)

The initial section of a 2006 South Dakota abortion law says, in part, that the state's legislature "... finds that the State of South Dakota has a compelling and paramount interest in the preservation of all human life."

If this idea means so much to so many, it stands to reason that it applies equally to the murderer as well as the unborn child.

The death penalty is an institutionalized darkness, one that drives all of us towards some imagined justice that truly is nothing more than violence for

violence. We are better than such short-sighted approaches to age-old issues. In just the last six years, six states in the U.S have banished death penalty laws. None have seen any impact in violent crime, because we still can keep society safe while incarcerating horrible criminals.

Too often supporters of the death penalty overlook the families of murder victims. The people who suffer terrible trauma and grief, as a rule, do not celebrate when murderers are put to death. We may feel we are helping them, but consider this: The real financial costs that go along with the act of execution could instead fund trauma and grief counseling for families. These methods work.

Right now, surviving families suffer alone, hopeful for healing but unassisted by the state. We could help them towards healing and give them support. Forgiveness is the road to healing, but it takes time, effort and love.

The late Nelson Mandela was recognized worldwide as a man of peace. Perhaps his strongest moment, and most vivid gift to humanity came shortly after his release from nearly three decades of imprisonment. When he asked if he hated those who took his freedom, Mandela demonstrated wisdom we can all emulate. He said, "Yes, I did. I felt hatred and fear but I said to myself, if you hate them, you will still be their prisoner. I wanted to be free, so I let it go."

This lesson from South Africa is one South Dakota must consider. South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, in league with several state lawmakers, will bring a bill to the 2014 legislative session that will repeal the death penalty. Are you free enough to reject the flawed concept of violence for violence? Will you reject vengeance and embrace the life that comes from Him and the forgiveness he has shown you? If so, then join our efforts. Write your legislators.

It's a matter of conscience.

Deacon Denny Davis, 65, lives in Burbank. He is a member of St. Agnes Parish in Vermillion and serves as a deacon with the Sioux Falls Diocese. He is the director of South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

# SD Shakespeare Festival to feature 'banter, bawdiness'



Tony Garcia and Emily Dorsett perform a scene from Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" during Tuesday's meeting of the Vermillion Rotary Club. It was announced at the meeting that the comedy will be performed during upcoming season of the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, to be held in Vermillion June 13-15.

(Photo by David Lias)

By Travis Gulbranson

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While the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival had a solid opening with "As You Like It" in the summer of 2012, its second season was scuttled altogether.

That won't be the case this year, however, when its second season will take place June 13-15 in Prentis Park with a production of "The Taming of the Shrew."

The announcement was made Monday afternoon during a regular meeting of the Vermillion Rotary Club.

Like the inaugural season of the festival, the summer's offering is a comedy, described by founding artistic director Chaya Gordon-Bland as "a rollicking ride of banter, bawdiness and classic battling of the sexes."

Rotary club members were given a sneak preview when University of South Dakota students Tony Garcia and Emily Dorsett performed the scene in which the play's two main characters, Petruchio and Kate, meet for the first time.

The South Dakota Shakespeare Festival is organized and run by Coyoteopoly, a USD student-run corporation that strives to provide charitable work for the Vermillion area.

"The mission of the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival is to increase the cultural, artistic and educational offerings in the state of South Dakota and the surrounding regions through professional Shakespeare performance and arts education events delivered in a lively and accessible format," Gordon-Bland said.

As with the first year, students will be organizing virtually every aspect of the festival.

"This year we are proud to receive our second South Dakota Arts Council

Grant for support of the 2014 season," Gordon-Bland said. "Looking forward, Coyoteopoly and the board of directors are hard at work in the areas of sales, fundraising, PR, HR, operations and everything else that goes into running a business."

One of the first fundraising opportunities will take place on Feb. 28 in the John A. Day Gallery in the fine arts building on the USD campus, a wine-tasting event called "Wine with Will."

"Shrew's" acting company will consist of between 12-14 actors, the same number that took part in Shakespeare's original productions.

"With 12-14 actors, you actually can cast any Shakespeare play," Gordon-Bland said. "That doesn't mean there are 12-14 characters — Henry V for example has 50-some characters — but you can actually double (actors in separate roles)."

USD theatre students will be given opportunities to audition for the production, along with other actors throughout the region and the nation.

"What we're really looking for is a combination of local actors from the university and elsewhere (and) regional actors," Gordon-Bland said. "I'll be going down to Lincoln, NE, next week, and I also do a round of auditions in New York City, which is highly-competitive by appointment, and we'll be able probably to bring in between two and four actors from New York City."

She added that in the 2012 company, the locally-trained actors "really held their own" with those who came from New York.

"It was a very smooth and successful company," she said.

All of the actors will arrive in Vermillion for rehearsals four weeks

before the festival takes place.

Another aspect of the festival is that of Shakespeare- and theatre-related education for young students, which remained last summer despite the lack of a performance.

Gordon-Bland said the vision for the festival is that eventually, it will "grow out," offering performances of multiple plays throughout the weekend, and performances in other communities. Coyoteopoly hopes to expand the educational aspect, as well, offering a service-learning opportunity for students in USD's Acting Shakespeare class.

"That's probably the piece that will happen first," Gordon-Bland said. "There's discussion underway to do a pilot program in 2015-16."

The Coyoteopoly students and Gordon-Bland thanked the local groups and individuals for their part in bringing the festival to town, including the Vermillion Rotary Club, the City of Vermillion, Sanford Vermillion and Dakota Hospital Foundation, USD's Beacom School of Business, College of Fine Arts and Department of Theatre, President James Abbott, College of Arts and Sciences and English Department, the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company, the South Dakota Arts Council, local and regional businesses.

The South Dakota Shakespeare Festival was founded in 2011 by Coyoteopoly's executive director, Greg Huckabee.

Its first season attracted approximately 1,100 visitors to Prentis Park, with an additional 100 young people to the various educational programs.

The play was given the Best Local Production Award from the Sioux City Journal in May 2013.

## OBITUARIES

### James Boeringer

Dr. James Boeringer served as an instructor in the Music Department at the University of South Dakota 1959-1962, where he is best remembered for his Bell Tower Music concert that included having brass played from the bell tower. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA, on March 4, 1930, and died on Jan. 12, 2014, of complications from pancreatic cancer in Maryland. He graduated from the College of Wooster in Ohio, Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary. He did additional graduate study at New York University and extensive research in London and at Oxford, England.

He was professor and university organist at the University of South Dakota, Oklahoma Baptist University and Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, and served as the director of the Moravian Music Foundation in Winston-Salem, NC,

before moving to the DC area.

He has published organ and choral music and now has works on [www.IMSLP.org](http://www.IMSLP.org) on the Internet. He published a three-volume book, "Organa Britannica" on early English organs, books on Hymnody and biographies of organists and composers of church music. He also wrote reviews and articles for the NY Times and scholarly journals.

He had an abiding interest in historic buildings and moved and restored two log cabins in his lifetime, one in Selinsgrove, PA, and one in Winston-Salem, NC. An avid gardener, he worked with the land and indigenous plants to create inviting and restful vistas.

He wrote fiction, which was published under a pseudonym and was a member of Actor's Equity with extensive theater credits.

He began his career as a church organist in 1947. His last post as organist was at Fifth Church of Christ

Scientist in Washington, DC, where he performed his last service exactly two weeks before his death.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Grace; daughters, Lisa Stocker and Greta; son Daniel; and brother, David. A memorial will be held in the spring. Donations may be made to

the International Music Score Library Project ([imslp.org](http://imslp.org)), a virtual library bringing public domain music scores into the hands of music scholars and performers or to the Moravian Music Foundation in Winston-Salem, NC, or a charity of your choice.

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