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Photo by Sam Robinson

Al Serrato, Stephen Wagstaffe and Tom Nolan

## San Mateo D.A. Discusses Criminal Justice Policy

San Quentin News' fifth Forum featured San Mateo County District Attorney Stephen M. Wagstaffe. Wagstaffe and his assistant, Al Serrato, discussed criminal justice policy with about a dozen convicted crimi-

nals.

Introducing themselves, each inmate described his crime, county of conviction and sentence. Crimes ranged from bur-

See *San Mateo* on Page 4

## Correctional Officer Saves Inmate's Life

By Lee Jaspas  
Journalism Guild Writer

During the late afternoon of April 10, Correctional Officer Arana brought inmate David R. Tarvin back to life.

"My heart quit, and I was dead," Tarvin said. "I want to express my sincere and heartfelt appreciation for Officer Arana's knowledge and extraordinary professionalism."

Arana said when he found Tarvin, he was unresponsive and without a pulse.

Sgt. Dougery was working the

Lower Yard when the incident occurred.

"I called Control and informed them that Tarvin was not breathing," Dougery said. "Once the medical staff of the Treatment Triage Area arrived, I retrieved (an) Amu-Bag, which is used to supply oxygen to the person. I then began giving rescue breaths while Arana did chest compressions."

"Medical staff knew exactly what was happening and exactly where to go but were not sure at

See *C/O* on Page 5

## Amala Foundation Promotes Global Peace Inside S.Q.

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

May 25 was not a typical Sunday on San Quentin's Lower Yard. Amid the morning tennis matches and basketball games that inmates play against the Bay Area community, dozens of Texans came to walk laps and raise funds in support of children who have endured trying times.

The originators of the fundraiser are inmates Stephen Pascascio, Sam Johnson, Dwight Krizman and Gino Sevacos. It was the fourth one held at San Quentin.

"I met Vanessa Stone six years ago," Pascascio said. "When I asked her what she does, she said that she raises money for traumatized kids around the world. When I brought the fundraising idea to the administration, they were fully on board. The rest is history." He added, "It is an honor and blessing to help such a worthy cause."

Inmates, prison staffers, Bay Area people and representatives



Photo by Michael Nelson

San Quentin band performs for the audience

from Amala Foundation walked the first lap in silence as the soft sounds of *Love is Space*, a devotional song by Deva Premal, filled the air.

Upon completing the lap, walkers engaged in intimate

conversations.

"After walking a couple of laps with an inmate and talking, sometimes you get this knowledge and experience that's un-

See *Commemor.* on Page 10

## New Senate Bills Give Hope To Juvenile Lifers

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

An inmate serving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole for his part in a murder that was committed when he was 16 can now apply for parole under a new law.

Edel Gonzalez, 38, requested a hearing under Senate Bill 9. He was subsequently resentenced to 25 years to life.

"I think Edel Gonzalez is exactly the kind of person that this law contemplated," Elizabeth Calvin of Human Rights Watch.

Gonzalez and adult gang members attempted to carjack Janet Bicknell and fatally shot

her in August 1991, news reports state. After his conviction, he received a sentence of life without parole.

At the time, Gonzalez was the youngest person ever to receive such a sentence in Orange County.

Gonzalez did not shoot Bicknell or carry the weapon, but he received the same punishment as his adult cohorts, reports say.

"Young people often make mistakes, and sometimes those mistakes have terrible consequences," said former state Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, author of SB 9. "We

See *Senate Bills* on Page 15

## Court Experts: CCWF's Medical System Is Substandard

According to court-appointed medical experts, California Central Women's Facility (CCWF) is not delivering adequate medical care to female inmates. CCWF is one of three women's facilities in the state

The experts toured CCWF last July to conduct observations and interviews with medical staff and inmates. They inspected facilities, clinics, medical bed space, medical records and various housing units.

The facility's records show care was sporadic and "providers did not address all the

patients' medical conditions."

The report found some women were prematurely discharged from medical beds, or sent back to housing units without their health problems addressed.

The report "found significant problems related to timeliness and quality of care in several systems." Most of the problems were attributable to overcrowding, insufficient health care staffing and inadequate medical bed space.

Many older women with a higher need of medical care were transferred to CCWF de-

spite difficulties in the health care delivery system.

"With respect to medical intake, the process is fragmented and does not result in the timely identification and treatment of serious medical conditions," the report said, adding there is no standardization to laboratory tests ordered for newly arriving inmates; instead, nurses independently order laboratory tests without a physician's order.

"Providers do not write medication orders but sign the

See *CCWF's* on Page 7



File photo

California Central Women's Facility

## Inside Edition #57

San Mateo D.A.	1	DeNevi's Paintings	9
Amala Foundation	1	Tony Saunders	9
Senate Bills	1	Amala Walk	10
C.O. Saves Life	1	Alliance Banquet	11
CCWF medical system	1	Arts & Entertainment	12
Editorial	2	'OG's' Perspective	13
Lengthy Prison Terms	3	Book Review	13
Second Striker Cap	3	FCC Collect Calls order	13
Prison Pop & Crime	3	Health & Wellness	14
Scott Walker	4	Health Care Concern	14
Rehabilitative Services	4	Youth Delinquency	15
Reid Technique	5	New Sentencing Law	15
FBI Studies	5	Month of Ramadan	16
S.Q. Veterans	6	Jonathan Wilkerson	16
Mark Titch's Obit	6	News Briefs	17
Execution case	7	Letter to the Editor	17
Execution drugs	7	Sports	18
CRI graduation	8	Sports	19
Rehab. Gardening	8	Asked on The Line	20
Ex-gang member	8	Father's Day	20

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### BEHIND THE SCENES

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## EDITORIAL

# Good Eye Care in Prison

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

With the federal courts declaring that California's prisons could not provide adequate health care because they were overcrowded, inmates often feel neglected by a perceived uncaring system. But, that assumption is not always true.

There are numerous health care providers who are concerned about inmates' medical needs, and they often take extraordinary efforts to meet patients' needs. They serve inmates in a variety of ways — from the nurse, who first sees an inmate, to outside specialists; numerous people provide a wide range of services. Most of these doctors, nurses and technicians try their best to do a good job.

However, the manner in which a doctor, nurse, technician or medical staff member treats inmates influences the perception of that service. Is the health care provider kind and polite or are they harsh and arrogant?

Influencing how an inmate perceives his or her medical care is that inmates are aware everything in prison is filtered through a strict system crafted around custody. So, sitting in a holding area overseen by custody staff can make an inmate feel that they are no more than a number in an uncaring system.

An exception to inmates' perception of an uncaring medical department is nurse Tara Kesecker, BA LVN CCHP.

Kesecker has an office in San Quentin's Central Health Care Facility. She's worked for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for about six years, all at San Quentin. Kesecker has become recognizable at this prison as someone who takes time to meet the medical needs of each inmate in her care.

Kesecker said working at San Quentin "has been a real eye-opener."

When she began working here, she went to the North Segregation Unit. She said that an inmate was complaining about not getting his medication and said he was in a lot of pain. She said that since no one would bring the inmate his medication, she went back to the medical building, picked up the medication and took it to the inmate. She said that the inmate was very grateful and six years later, he is still giving thanks.

Kesecker said that incident was her first indication that some



Photo by Michelle Rochelle

Tara Kesecker in front of the CCHP hallway

inmates might not be getting adequate care. "Getting your medication is very important, no matter who you are," adding, "follow up and continuing care is very important."

Today, Kesecker works as an optometrist technician assisting inmates with glasses and other vision problems. She has a huge responsibility providing eye care to inmates, a sensitive area of utmost importance to her patients. "I have nothing but praise for all of my co-workers," she said. "I love working with them."

Kesecker said she "loves her work," even though she said she knew that there would be many complexities. "I look forward to the challenges of my job," she said.

Inmates who walk into her office are greeted with a warm tone and clear words. New patients instantly know that Kesecker is a caring health care provider who takes her job seriously. Her concern about vision and eye care gives patients a real sense of comfort.

"Tara has a way of making one comfortable and relieving tension," one inmate said.

Kesecker said inmate health care is a constant concern to her,

and she wants to be involved in bringing quality health care to inmates.

She said after listening to question from inmates about the link between sleep and overall good health, conducting a sleep test at San Quentin might be useful. She said after Sacramento's approval to move forward with the test, she's excited.

Nevertheless, Kesecker said in order for inmates to receive quality care, it is important to communicate and cooperate. Kesecker said. "Inmates must be quality patients."

She said once an inmate puts in a slip to see the eye doctor, there's no need to repeat the process. Within 24 hours, the medical slip is processed and the patient will be seen within 90 days.

While it is easy for inmates to feel neglected and abused regarding health care, inmates do not always think about the difficulty health care providers face with each new patient. If inmates step back and put themselves in place of the person trying to provide help, they might get a better perspective that could benefit the goal of good health care.



# Lengthy Prison Terms Costing Taxpayers Billions of Dollars

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Over the last two decades, the average length of stay for inmates in U.S. prisons has increased, costing taxpayers billions of dollars with little to show for the extra expense needed to keep offenders behind bars, a research center reports.

A study by the *Pew Center on the States* found there was a spike of more than 700 percent in the U.S. prison population from 1972 to 2011.

"Longer prison terms have been a key driver of prison populations and cost," the study said.

"Nationally, the fastest period of growth in time served came between 1995 and 2000. In that period, length of stay rose 28 percent, compared with less than 5 percent in the five-year periods before and after," *Pew* reported.

The *Pew Center's* research found that state spending amounts to more than \$51 billion annually on corrections, with prisons accounting for the majority of this rising price tag.

Across the nation, these developments, combined with tight

state budgets have prompted a significant shift toward alternatives to prison for lower-level offenders, the report found. "Criminologist and policy makers increasingly agree that we have reached a 'tipping point' with incarceration, where additional imprisonment will have little if any effect on crime."

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***"Longer prison terms have been a key driver of prison populations and cost"***

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The report said additional time in prison may result in a "declining deterrent effect," and make the offender more likely to commit new crimes after release. This is "the foundation of the argument that prisons are 'schools of crime.'"

Both the number of offenders sent to prison and the length of incarceration are "principal forces" on the rise and fall of prison

populations, *Pew* reported.

According to the study, inmates who paroled in 2009 had an average prison time of nearly three years, nine months longer than inmates paroled in 1990, this amounts to a 36 percent increase in time served over the course of a decade.

"The cost of that extra nine months totals an average of \$23,300 per offender," *Pew* reported.

According to *Pew*, the increase in time was "remarkably similar across crime types."

Drug crimes increased to 2.2 years, up from 1.6 years in 1990 – a 36 percent increase.

Property crimes increased to 2.3 years, up from 1.8 years in 1990 – a 24 percent increase.

Violent crimes increased 5.0 years, up from 3.7 years in 1990, which is a 37 percent increase.

"This cohort cost \$4.7 billion more than had they served the 1990 average," *Pew* said.

In California, the average length of stay for all crimes was 1.9 years for those paroled in 1990. By 2009, that number jumped to 2.9 years, an increase of 51 percent – 15 percent above

the national average of 36 percent, it was reported.

For violent offenders in California the overall length of stay jumped to 63 percent, the *Pew* study reported.

"I think if you had a list of all the potential factors that could drive up length of stay in prison, California would have a check by every one of them," said Joan Petersilia, co-director of the Stanford Criminal Justice Center.

The *Pew* study said there is little or no evidence suggesting longer periods of incarceration prevents additional crime for a significant number of offenders.

"A significant proportion of non-violent offenders who were released in 2004 could have served shorter prison terms without impacting public safety," *Pew* reported.

The study said California has been struggling for a long time to provide adequate rehabilitation and work programs for its prison population as a way for eligible participants to earn a reduction in their time served.

"One study found that for offenders released (in California)

in 2006, half had not attended a single rehabilitation program or work assignment while behind bars," *Pew* reported. California has since recommitted to rehabilitation and is investing in increasing the programs offered to inmates, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation press office.

The *Pew* study said those who make policy in the three branches of government could modify incarceration time by adjusting both "the front-end (sentencing), and back-end (release) policy decisions."

"Decisions about how to charge a defendant after arrest and booking can have a profound impact on future length of stay in prison. In most instances, prosecutors have significant discretion in determining which charges to file," the *Pew* study said.

The study said some states have implemented reforms including raising the dollar amount on property crimes that trigger certain felonies, revising drug offense classifications, scaling back mandatory minimums, increasing the ability to earn sentence reductions and revising eligibility standards for parole.

The study concluded that long-term sentences are "not the best way to spend public dollars and protect public safety."

## Second-Striker Population Jumps, Causing Officials to Worry About Maintaining Cap

By Antonio Alvarado  
Journalism Guild Writer

State officials are concerned about a flood of new inmates into California's overcrowded prison and county jails systems, reports Rina Palta, crime and safety reporter for KPCC.

The Three Strikes Law, enacted in 1994, increased California's prison population over time, according to Palta.

The law changed sentencing in two ways:

Anyone having two previous convictions for a serious or violent felony crime would be sentenced to 25 years to life upon their third felony conviction. Anyone having a felony conviction while previously convicted of a serious or violent crime – known as "second strikers" – would have their sentence automatically dou-

bled.

State officials worry that the increase of "second strike" admissions would make it difficult for California to comply with a federal court order to reduce its prison population over the next two years, Palta reported.

According to prison officials' population projections, "there were 5,492 second strike admissions in fiscal year 2012-

2013, which is 32.6 percent higher than the previous fiscal year" – the highest number of second strikers sent to prison since 1998-1999.

California has approximately 35,000 second strikers; 24,000 are in prison on a non-violent second-strike conviction, prison numbers show. This is proving to be a major obstacle in reducing the prison population down to 137.5 percent of its

capacity, according to Palta's report.

"We're certainly concerned that if this trend in increased admissions continues, it is going to make it harder for the state to comply. The state will have to figure out some kind of way to accommodate them," said Aaron Edwards, senior analyst at the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

Edwards said no one can quite explain the recent increase, but that it is likely the result of many factors, one guess being the consequence of the state's shifting "low-level" offenders and parolees from serving time in state prisons to local county jail facilities.

"Prior to realignment, individuals who were on parole could be sent back to prison for a parole violation," Edwards said. Now parole violations either get jail time or are prosecuted as new crimes – sometimes resulting in second-strike convictions.

According to Palta, another possibility is county prosecutors, dealing with overcrowded jails, could be deciding to charge more offenders with strikes to make sure they go to prison instead of jail or probation.

Palta reports that in granting the state a two-year extension for lowering its prison population, state officials have agreed to increase its good-time credits for second strikers currently in prison. The state has also agreed to create a parole process for second strikers convicted of non-violent offenses who have served at least half of their sentence.

## Report: Prison Population and Overall Crime Rate Both Going Down

After four decades of swelling prison populations and exorbitant costs to maintain such growth, state prison populations finally are decreasing and the overall crime rate is dropping, according to the non-profit Urban Institute. However, the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is not part of the downward trend.

"BOP is falling behind the state prison systems and is on track to squander one-third of the Justice Department's budget by 2020," said National Public Radio in a special report. "The federal prison population has grown eightfold since 1980.

It costs more than \$6 billion a year to house more than 200,000 inmates in increasingly overcrowded facilities." The NPR report cited research by the Urban Institute and the Pew Center.

Prisons cost a fortune and "that is at great expense to other fiscal priorities," said Nancy LaVigne, director of the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center. "That affects the DEA, the FBI, grants to states and localities for policing, for crime prevention, and for reducing gang violence."

Beginning in the late 1980s, tough-on-crime politics convinced lawmakers to pass laws creating mandatory minimums, truth in sentencing, and Three-Strikes laws, NPR reported. No politician wants to seem soft on crime. In prison systems across the country, as prison populations rose, crime rates went down.

"There's been this assumption that if you wanted to reduce crime, you had to lock up more and more people," says Adam Gelb, director of the public safety performance

project for the Pew Charitable Trusts. "But what we're seeing in state after state, is states actually ratcheting back their prison populations and having significant drops in crime."

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***"It appears that we have passed the point of diminishing returns, to where more and more prisons are not effective at reducing crime"***

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"It appears that we have passed the point of diminishing returns, to where more and

more prisons are not effective at reducing crime," said Gelb. "People are sick and tired of this revolving door. There's got to be a better way."

According to the Pew Center research, only three percent of the BOP's population of federal inmates have been convicted of murder, assault or kidnapping. Half of all federal prisoners were convicted on drug-related charges.

NPR points out that for the first time, lawmakers on Capitol Hill are reviewing legislation that will "reduce prison sentences and drug penalties for nonviolent crimes."

The Senate Judiciary Committee recently passed a bill to lower mandatory minimums for some drug crimes and to give judges more discretion during sentencing. The bill is now before the full Senate.

–By Kevin D. Sawyer

# CALPIA's Scott Walker Receives 2014 Staff Award

By CDCR

With more than 28 years of experience at the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), Deputy Director Scott Walker is the recipient of the "Staff Award for 2014" from the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA).

CALPIA General Manager Charles L. Pattillo nominated Walker for the award. Forty-nine other states also nominated correctional industry staff for this prestigious honor. Walker was first selected as the regional winner.

NCIA announced Walker was the national winner in January, and he was recognized at the National NCIA Conference in April.

The NCIA Staff Award was established in 1980 to recognize the quality of industry staff personnel and recognize superior performance.

"I am thrilled NCIA recognized Scott Walker for his leadership and innovations," said Pattillo. "It's because of his commitment and dedication to CALPIA that offenders acquire job skills, which is vital when it comes to reducing recidivism, reducing state

costs and, more importantly, increasing public safety."

Walker has been instrumental in stewarding CALPIA's 57 manufacturing, service and consumable enterprises in 24 prisons. He said operations are expected to expand to 91 enterprises in 34 prisons. "The big one is in health care maintenance. It is projected to create another 900 offender assignments," Walker said.

CALPIA is a self-financed and self-sufficient state entity that receives all of its revenue from the sale of products it manufactures.



Photo by Sara Lafleur-Vetter

Scott Walker

The recidivism rate among CALPIA inmates is more than 25 percent lower than the general prison popula-

tion, a success attributed to the job skills that they receive by working in CALPIA business enterprises.

## CDCR Launches New Rehabilitative Services For Long-Term Offenders

By CDC Press

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is launching a pilot program offering targeted rehabilitative services to inmates serving long-term sentences.

The Long-Term Offender Pilot Program (LTOPP) provides evidence-based programming during incarceration and services upon release to allow inmates an easier transition back into society. "Due to the length of incarceration, long-term offenders are often not prepared for the

significant changes in technology and day-to-day living that have occurred since they were first incarcerated," said Millie Tidwell, CDCR Division of Rehabilitative Programs Director. "Giving these offenders the tools they need to be successful in their own rehabilitation both inside and outside prison is imperative."

The program is intended to serve inmates who have been identified as having moderate to high risk of criminal behavior and are serving indeterminate sentences with the possibility

of parole. The LTOPP is a voluntary program that will include evidence-based treatment for:

- Substance abuse
- Criminal thinking
- Victim impact
- Anger-management issues
- Improvement of family relationships

The LTOPP will initially be implemented at the following institutions: California State Prison, Solano in Vacaville; Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla; and California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo. Inmates who are serving

indeterminate sentences at non-pilot institutions may be allowed to temporarily transfer to a pilot location in order to participate in the LTOPP.

Additionally, CDCR is creating Long-Term Offender Reentry Facilities that will help long-term offenders during their transition back into society, including housing, employment and community-based services. Locations for these reentry facilities are still being determined.

The pilot program will be in effect for 24 months, during which time the CDCR Division

of Rehabilitative Programs will monitor implementation and effectiveness of the program. If proven to be a successful rehabilitative tool, the program will then go through the Administrative Procedures Act process to become a formal policy.

The LTOPP is being implemented in accordance with the 2012 CDCR Blueprint in which the department was tasked with increasing the percentage of inmates served in rehabilitative programs prior to release to 70 percent of the target population.

## San Mateo D.A. Wagstaffe Shares His Views at News Forum

Continued from Page 1

glary to first-degree murder.

"In December of 1997 I killed someone, and when I first came to prison, racism was widespread," said Erin O'Connor, 42. "I bought into that idea and even went further into a racist ideology. I bought into these morbid ideas."

O'Connor added, "It wasn't until 2004 when I was in the hole for starting a race riot that got me thinking that I wasn't the person my mother expected me to be. I decided to turn my life around. Then I came to San Quentin and got into programs."

"I started at level four," said Thompson Isaiah, 53. "When I became a member of the level four community, I learned racism. It was hard for me to take the racism in prison based on my background in college and the military. On a level four, hyper-vigilance is a survival technique," he said. "I've learned to value life."

"It turned out to be an eye-opening experience," said Wagstaffe, who has 37 years of experience as a district attorney. He became San Mateo's lead DA in 2011.

Serrato said at the April 9 event he was interested in the types of rehabilitative opportunities offered at San Quentin.

Serrato asked the men how long it took them to gain the insight they were reflecting during the forum. "Was it a lack of education, or did you need the time?" he asked.

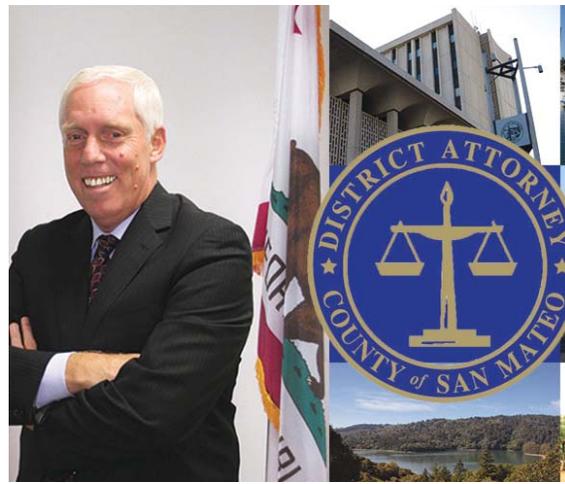
"My greatest opponent was my rage," said Beltranchuc Tare, 41. "It took me six months to see that I can turn my life around. I saw my friend change, and then I had a role model. Restorative Justice Roundtable allowed me to hear other people open up, and I learned about the pain that I caused. I knew that the victims deserved better. It helped me see my crime as what it is. I saw the ripple effect of my crimes."

Miles Vaughn, 40, said, "It would [not] have worked when I was younger. I can see now how easy it is. When I was younger, I didn't know how to express myself. It is hard to understand empathy when you're in a negative environment. It wasn't until I got to San Quentin that I had a chance to change."

"When I came to prison in 1973, Tracy was known as the gladiator school," said Robin Guillen, 60. "Being in Rome, I did as the Romans did. I adapted to that environment."

However, Guillen said, "The pivotal point for me was right in the beginning of my 41 years of incarceration. A man I knew was stabbed in his heart right in front of me. I had to watch him die. It registered for me, the value of human life," he added. "That was when Jerry Brown was governor the first time. There have to be opportunities for change."

"Sitting with these men always is a flooring experience," said Sonya Shah, lead facilitator for San Quentin's Victim/Offender Education Group (VOEG). VOEG is designed to



File photo

San Mateo D.A. Stephen Wagstaffe

bring crime victims and offenders together in dialogue for the purpose of aiding victim healing.

"What makes a person thrive is being safe," Shah said, referring to San Quentin's prosocial programs. She added, "From sports to religion to college, these programs are what helps create the changes and opens the mind of the offender, which makes the community safer."

Wagstaffe asked the men about the availability of programs throughout the prison system.

Miguel Quezada, 33, said he committed murder at 17. "I was sent to county jail. They didn't know what to do with me, so I

ended up in solitary confinement. When I turned 18, I was sent to a level four, maximum-security prison."

"There were no programs there, just basic education," said Quezada. "There were a lot of lockdowns. I did this for five and a half years. The only self-help program available was Alternatives to Violence." He added, "Even though what led to my incarceration was a matter of choice, I needed the chance to change."

Thou Nou, 38, said he committed a murder as a juvenile and ended up on a level four prison at 17.

"I came into prison not knowing my identity or who I was,"

Nou said. "When I was young, I didn't have someone to help me learn identity. I was disconnected, and after I got to level four, I was further disconnected."

While in administrative segregation, Nou said his sister sent him a letter with his niece's footprint on it. He said the sight of the footprint made him feel connected to his family. "That was the first time I felt what the victims went through," he said.

Lee Jaspas, 57, said that after a long period of reflection and denial, he began to understand his role in the neglect to his family and community.

"I had a choice to either look at the ugliness that was going on around me or look at myself," Jaspas said. "The only thing I had was to look at myself. I realized that life is not about me. It is about the people I owed, my community and family."

Jaspas said what was helpful to his rehabilitation was when people from the community came inside the prison to interact in the programs he took.

"I made a commitment to take all my time and efforts in the service of my community," Jaspas said.

"I don't know the other 120,000 men in California prisons, but having the chance to listen to you is very meaningful," Wagstaffe told the inmates. "I'd love to hear more from you. I'd like to come to any of the groups. I would love to hear about the programs. The time today was of extreme value."

—By Juan Haines

# 'Reid Technique' Interrogations Said to Lead to False Confessions

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Interrogation techniques widely used by law enforcement that include lying about having evidence, badgering and manipulating suspects can cause false confessions, and it is legal. That is the conclusion of a recent article in *The New Yorker*.

According to *The New Yorker*, John Reid, a former Chicago cop who became a consultant and polygraph expert, developed a three-stage system in 1955, called the Reid Technique that uses such tactics.

## SUPREME COURT DECISION

A 1969 US Supreme Court decision affirmed the police have a right to lie to suspects.

The Reid system is extremely effective in producing confessions but not very good at separating true ones from false ones, found Melissa Russano and her colleagues at Florida International University, who conducted experiments using

the Reid interrogation method. The article's author, Douglas Starr, writes that 25 percent of the 311 people exonerated by post-conviction DNA have confessed to crimes they did not do. This has raised alarms among a growing number of scientists and legal scholars about Reid-style interrogations, according to Starr's article, (*Dec. 12, 2013, "The Interview."*)

"My God, [the Reid Manual] reads like a bad psychology textbook. It was filled with assertions with no empirical proof," psychologist Saul Kassin told Starr. Kassin is widely regarded as a leading expert on false confessions.

The Reid Technique starts with a "Behavior Analysis Interview," when the interrogator assesses whether a suspect is lying. To determine this, the questioner asks a series of non-threatening questions to get a sense of baseline behavior. Then he uses more provocative accusations and "baiting," in which the interrogator claims he has incriminating evidence.

If the interrogator decides

the suspect is lying, he leaves the room for five minutes and returns with an official-looking folder. The folder is used to bluff the suspect into believing official information shows the suspect is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

In the full interrogation phrase, the suspect is prodded to confess. The interrogator does all the talking, batting away all the suspect's denials.

Then the "minimization" phase begins, in which the suspects are steered toward confessing by offering them a face-saving alternative.

## CONFESSION

When the suspect finally admits to the crime, the interrogator praises him for owning up and presses for corroborating details. Then the interrogator works with the suspect to convert the admissions into a full written confession. If the suspect has trouble remembering the details, the interrogator offers multiple-choice options for the answers.

As a finishing touch, trivial

mistakes are introduced into the document for the suspect to correct and then initial. That shows the court that the suspect understood the accuracy of what he was signing.

Kassin views Reid's system as inherently coercive. He explained to Starr that an interrogator's refusal to listen to a suspect's denials creates feelings of hopelessness. The fake file and the lies about the incriminating evidence multiply this effect. Then short-term thinking takes over and confessing starts to look like a way out. Many people take it just to stop the incessant badgering by the interrogator.

Starr's article cited others who agreed with Kassin's assessment. An innocent suspect will fabricate a story to satisfy his questioners, said Richard Leo, a law professor at the University of San Francisco, and Richard Ofshe, a social psychologist. Leo has undergone the Reid training and observed nearly 200 interrogations in Oakland, Hayward and Vallejo police departments.

Starr writes that Russano has found that direct accusations elicit confessions from innocent and guilty subjects alike. In an experiment involving accusing innocent students of cheating conducted by Russano and cited by Starr, the face-saving minimization technique proved especially effective.

Additionally, in experiments students performed better than police officers at telling whether someone was lying. However, police consistently expressed greater confidence in their ability to tell who was lying. "That's a bad combination," Kassin told Starr.

Law-enforcement experience does not necessarily improve the ability to detect lies, according to Aldert Vrij, a professor of psychology at the University of Portsmouth in England cited by

Starr.

Reid-style training creates a tendency to see lies where they may not exist, with an unhealthy amount of confidence in that judgment, says retired F.B.I. agent Gregg McCrary, according to *The New Yorker*. "They just assume they're interviewing the guilty guy," McCrary said.

Starr also interviewed Joseph Buckley, president of John E. Reid & Associates, who confirmed that nothing in the technique was developed in collaboration with psychologists. "It's entirely based on our experience," he said.

## TECHNIQUE

Buckley insists the Reid Technique's sole objective is to get to the truth. He has testified for the Innocence Project to get wrongfully convicted people out of prison and help them sue for reparations when the interrogator violates training procedures. In other words, when a false confession is produced, it's the fault of the interrogator, not Reid Technique itself, Buckley insisted to Starr. He also argues that experiments conducted by his critics are flawed because they lack real-world conditions.

Peter Neufeld, co-founder of the Innocence Project, explained to Starr that it is easier to win false-conviction cases by having Buckley testify that the police violated their training than by trying to show with a team of psychologists that the training itself is slipshod.

Although John Reid died in 1982, his company continues to train police, security guards, military, FBI, CIA and Secret Service agents. It trains more interrogators than any other company worldwide and brags that the people it trains get suspects to confess 80 percent of the time, which usually leads to a guilty verdict no matter the other facts in the case.

# FBI Studies Project Hike In Violence, Property Crimes

By **Charles David Henry**  
Staff Writer

Violent and property crimes in America climbed for the second year in a row, the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics reports.

The increases were driven by simple assaults and crime not reported to police, the bureau reported.

"These estimates are based on data from the annual National Crime Victimization Survey, which has collected information from victims of crime age 12 or older since 1973," according to the bureau.

Statistics produced from the October 2013 report show "the violent crime rate (which includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault) rose from 22.6 victimizations per 1,000 persons in 2011 to 26.1 in 2012." These are the latest nationwide figures available.

In order to compile the proper statistics, the report includes calculations on violence perpetrated on victims not reported to the police. The report shows these numbers increased from 10.8 per 1,000 persons in 2011, to 14.0 in 2012, and simple assault rates rose from 15.4 to 18.2 per 1,000.

According to the report, "the rate of violent crimes reported to police did not change significantly from 2011 to 2012."

Other statistics include the rate of property crimes (burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft) increased from 138.7 per 1,000 households in 2011 to 155.8 in 2012, primarily due to an increase in theft. The report shows "the rate of theft victimization increased from 104.2

per 1,000 households in 2011 to 120.9 in 2012."

"In 2012, 44 percent of violent victimizations and 54 percent of violent victimizations were reported to police," the report finds.

According to the report, "These percentages were not statistically different from 2011. The percentage of property victimizations reported to police declined from 37 percent in 2011 to 34 percent in 2012."

The Bureau of Justice Statistics explains. "There was no significant change in the percentage of crime victims receiving assistance from 2011 to 2012."

That same year, "about 8 percent of violent crime victims received assistance from public or private victim services agencies that provide support for physical or emotional recovery, guidance through the criminal justice system or assistance with obtaining restitution," the report stated.

"Rape or sexual assault victims (22 percent) were more likely to receive assistance than victims of robbery (6 percent), aggravated assault (8 percent) or simple assault (8 percent)," it was also reported.

The following statistics were included in the report:

The rates of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and violence involving an injury or firearm violence did not change significantly from 2011 to 2012.

Violent crime rates increased slightly in 2012 for blacks but remained stable for whites and Hispanics.

In 2012, residents in urban areas continued to experience the highest rates of violent crime. Residents in the West had higher

rates of violent victimization than resident in other regions of the country.

The composition of violent crime remained stable in 2012. From 1993 to 2012, simple assaults made up approximately 70 percent of all violent victimizations.

During 2012, about 92,390 households and 162,940 persons age 12 or older were interviewed for the report. According to the report, "since the National Crime Victim Survey interviews victims of crime, homicide is not included in these nonfatal

## Correctional Officer's Courageous Act of Saving a Life



Sgt. Dougery

*Continued from Page 1*

first of the seriousness of the situation because when I called it in, I spoke as clearly and calmly as I could," said Correctional Of-

ficer Whitted, who was Arana's partner. "Medical staff used the AED once on Tarvin and they were preparing to shock him again when the machine registered a pulse."

Tarvin was subsequently transported to Marin General Hospital, where two stents were implanted in his blocked arteries.

Whitted is an 18-year veteran of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and has been at San Quentin his entire career. "It was unfortunate that this had to happen, and I just did what I had to do," Whitted said. "We are not here to punish anyone. That has already been done by a court. I try to stay above judgment and do my job in a professional manner."

Arana began his CDCR career at San Quentin six years ago. He noted that correctional officers



David Tarvin

are trained to perform their duties in a professional manner.

"I am part of a team," he said. "The medical staff and those at the hospital were also an important part of saving his life."

"When something like this happens, you just react based on your training. I do not think about who it is," Whitted said. "I would do the same thing for anyone: custody, free-staff or inmate. I hope Mr. Tarvin is well."

# S. Q. Veterans Honor American Soldiers on Memorial Day

By Emile DeWeaver  
Journalism Guild Writer

While many Americans placed flowers and flags on soldiers' graves on May 26, military veterans inside San Quentin also honored American soldiers who had lost their lives serving their country.

"I believe the observance of Memorial Day is important, even in prison," said Honor Guard Team Leader Craig Johnson. "It's our duty to remember all of those who have died while in the service of the United States. All of these men and women are my brothers and sisters."

As noon approached, spectators watched more than two dozen inmate/veterans assemble and file into a military formation on San Quentin's Lower Yard. The ribbons and awards these inmate/veterans earned stood out against their prison blues.

At high noon, the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin Honor Guard paraded the American and POW/MIA

flags across the Lower Yard. They halted in front of a crowd of spectators. Next, bugler and veteran Larry "Popeye" Faison took his position. Johnson's call to "Present Arms" cut through the sounds of sports and table games across the yard. The inmate/veterans saluted as the POW/MIA flag dropped to a 45-degree angle while the American flag stood tall.

When Popeye finished "Taps," Johnson called "Order Arms," and marched the Honor Guard back across the field. The formation was dismissed and the ceremony concluded.

As of 2012, 1,295,547 American soldiers have died during wartimes, according to *PBS News* and the *World Almanac*.

Inmate/veterans who took part in the ceremony:

Craig R. Johnson, 57; two years duty; U.S. Navy  
Lawson Beavers, 78; five years duty; U.S. Army  
Michael Elmore, 59; two years duty; U.S. Marine Corps  
Chris Schuhmacher, 41; two



Photo by Sam Hearn

Members of the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Question

years duty; U.S. Air Force  
David Tarvin, 60; three years duty; U.S. Navy  
Wesley Eisinger, 67; three years duty; U.S. Army  
Gary Cooper, 65; four years duty; U.S. Marine Corps  
Andre Richardson, 47; two years duty; U.S. Air Force  
Harry Terry, 76; 20 years duty; U.S. Navy  
Larry Faison, 63; two years duty; U.S. Army  
Ed Bowman, 74; 12 years duty; U.S. Marine Corps  
Harry Barton, 70; four years duty; U.S. Navy

Kenneth Goodlow, 65; two years duty; U.S. Army  
Emery Milligan, 64; 20 years duty; U.S. Marine Corps  
James Foster, 69; four years duty; U.S. Navy  
Sam Gaskins, 68; 12 years duty; U.S. Army  
Mauro Gumpal, 57; six years duty; U.S. Marine Corps  
Don Dawson, 75; six years duty; U.S. Navy  
Marvin Harris, 60; two years, six months duty; U.S. Army  
Christopher Anderson, 51 (years of duty unknown); U.S.

Marine Corps  
Harry Olson, 75; six years duty; U.S. Navy  
Martin, J.D., 65; 12 years duty; U.S. Army  
Bernard Werner, 49; three years duty; U.S. Marine Corps  
Pedro Espinal, 60; four years duty; U.S. Navy  
Henry L. Poe, 60; six years duty; U.S. Army  
Malcolm Jones, 55 (years duty unknown); U.S. Navy  
Garvin E. Robinson, 59 (years duty unknown); U.S. Army  
Nicola Bucci, 41; (years duty unknown) U.S. Navy

## Remembering the Life of Mark Titch

By Raphael Calix  
Contributing Writer

Mark Titch passed away on April 22 after being hospitalized for 11 days. Titch was scheduled to appear before the parole board May 14 for the ninth time.

The cause of his death is not yet known. "It takes two months before the official cause of death is reported," said Chief Medical Officer Elaina Tootell.

Titch entered through prison doors in 1976 as a 17-year-old convicted of murder and kidnap. He was sentenced to life with the possibility of parole.

Chuck LeGros, his cellmate for nine years, came to prison at age 45 and did not know anything about prison life. "Mark schooled me, and took good

care of me, just like a son," he said, adding, "Mark's favorite time when he was not working was to cook some food and throw a food fest on the yard with his friends."

A long-time co-worker, said, "Mark was very personable, and he would take the shirt off his back to help you. He was a hard worker, leading by example in the print shop and as a welder."

Titch educated himself, achieving a high school diploma and a college education from Chapman University at the California Men's Colony (CMC).

While at CMC, he became a confirmed Catholic. LeGros said of him, "He believed in God, and his Lord and savior



File photo

Chuck LeGros, Bishop and Mark Titch in the Chapel

was Jesus Christ. I believe that Mark went straight to heaven from San Quentin."

According to LeGros, Titch's childhood was fraught with many problems. He said that Titch's mother abandoned the family to start a new life without him and his siblings and that their father was an alcoholic who beat him and his siblings. Titch left home at 13 and never returned, according to LeGros.

Growing up in Orange County placed him near Disneyland. According to LeGros, Titch spent a lot of time at Disneyland as a runaway.

When he started getting into

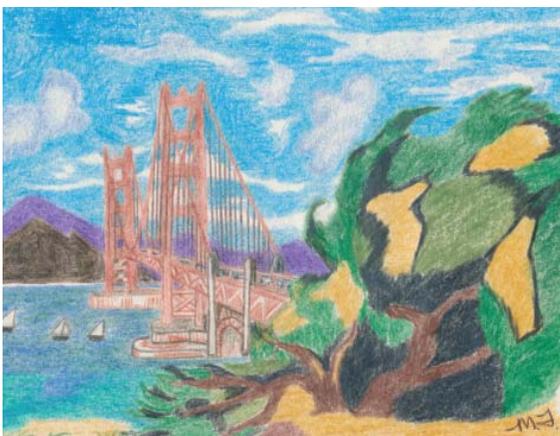
trouble with the law, he spent many years in juvenile detention centers and several years in the California Youth Authority. His father passed away during this term, LeGros said. His siblings separated from the family as well, and he lost contact with

most of them.

Titch qualified for consideration for parole under the recent juvenile bill passed last year. His correctional counselor was in the process of gathering the necessary records for consideration, according to LeGros.

### Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.



Artwork by Mark Titch

# Execution Case Investigated Nearly 70 Years Later

*'Stinney is the youngest person known to be executed in America in the last two centuries'*

By Charles David Henry  
Staff Writer

The execution of 14-year-old George Junius Stinney Jr. in June 1944 has sparked a discussion regarding deep racial injustice in South Carolina.

Stinney is the youngest person known to be executed in America in the 20th century.

Nearly 70 years after Stinney was put to death for allegedly killing two white girls, Betty June Binnicker, 11, and Mary Emma Thames, 8, advocates have taken the unprecedented step of asking the South Carolina state court to grant a new trial to clear his name, according to a re-

port from *NBC News Investigations*.

George Frierson, a local historian from South Carolina, and Ray Brown, a filmmaker who is writing a script based on Stinney's story, have joined efforts to persuade the state to review the criminal proceeding from the original case.

## WRONGFUL CONVICTION

"We want them to consider the possibility that he was wrongly convicted and executed for something he did not do," said Brown.

A representative for the Attorney General Office, which would be tasked with arguing

the state's case in the event of a retrial, has not received notice of the filing and has no comments on the pending litigation.

***"We want them to consider the possibility that he was wrongly convicted and executed for something he did not do"***

The solicitor for Clarendon County, Ernest "Chip" Finney, said, nearly all evidence and transcripts in the case had either disappeared or been destroyed, meaning it would almost certainly be impossible to prove Stinney's innocence or guilt by reopening the investigation.

Also, there are legal obstacles concerning the pursuit of a retrial.

"South Carolina law allows a defendant to ask for a retrial if new evidence is uncovered, but it requires the motion be filed within a year of the discovery," according to the *NBC* report.

The day Binnicker and Thames were killed in Alcolu, S.C., Stinney and his younger sister, Amie, sat on the railroad tracks after school and watched the family cow graze.

According to the report, "The girls wheeled their bicycle up to them and asked where they could find maypop flowers."

"It was strange to see them in our area, because white people stayed on their side of Alcolu and we knew our place," Amie said years later in an affidavit.

Members of the black community from the town joined a search party and found the girls' bodies dumped in a ditch the next day. Police arrested George and his brother. The brother was later released but George was not, according to the *NBC* report.

## CONFESSION

Although George had confessed to the murders of Binnicker and Thames, Amie told

investigators in 2009, she was with her brother [George] that day, and he could not have committed the murders.

Stinney's attorney took him to trial 30 days after the murder.

According to the *NBC* report, "The boy's court appointed attorney did not present a defense." In addition, he did not file a notice of appeal, which would have at least delayed the boy's execution.

## CONVICTION

An all-white jury convicted (Stinney) on the basis of what police described as a confession. The prosecution presented two conflicting statements made by Stinney: one that he had killed the girls in self-defense and the other that he had chased the girls into the woods and attacked them. No records remain of either confession, according to the *NBC* report.

Soon after the jury found Stinney guilty of murder, the judge ordered a death penalty, the report said.

Stinney was electrocuted on June 16, 1944, four months prior to his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## CCWF's Health Care Knocked

*'There is no standardization of laboratory tests ordered for newly arriving inmates'*

*Continued from Page 1*

sending jail facility's medication profile without designating the duration of the medication order," the report said. "... the initial history and physical examination is not performed timely and providers do not adequately document history and physical findings."

In one case, the examiners documented a 55-year-old woman who arrived at CCWF last June. Her medical history included several serious medical problems including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C, problems with her blood levels, seizures and mental health issues. She had a hysterectomy in 1999. It took more than a week after her arrival for a physical examination to be completed. Medical providers did not perform a comprehensive medical history, although the patient told medical staff about her extensive health issues.

In another case, a 33-year-old woman also arrived in June at CCWF from the Los Angeles County Jail. Her medical history included HIV and a chronic infection, asthma and mental health issues. Upon her arrival, the reception nurse did not address a pending medical appointment even though it was noted on the jail transfer form. Her history and physical examination also were not performed within seven days of arrival. A week later, a doctor saw her and performed a brief HIV history. The doctor reordered HIV medications for two months and ordered a chest X-ray and laboratory tests, but did not include an HIV viral load or urinalysis. The following month another doctor saw her and determined that the HIV and hepatitis C

infection were in control, even though there were no laboratory tests.

The doctor determined that she had a boil and ordered skin cream for seven days. The next day, a nurse practitioner performed a history and physical examination, noting the boil was about 2.5 by 2 centimeters. The nurse practitioner's clinical description differed significantly from the physician's description and referred the inmate to the trauma unit for consideration of incision and drainage of the boil.

The report noted CCWF medical staff's inability to downsize its doctors' referral backlog, exacerbated by problems with the system's new electronic medical records system.

The nursing and pharmacy staff told examiners that an inability to scan records in a timely manner limited the ability to timely and continually dispense medication to inmates. Staff reported that the new system is too labor intensive. "Staff reported that MedSATS is more labor intensive than previous systems."

The examiners noted that staffing in the medical records department was reduced from 15 to six. At the same time, the inmate population increased, which overloaded the staff's ability to scan medical records on a timely basis, hindering doctors from evaluating the inmates' needs.

The report concluded that "We are impressed with CCWF health care leadership and believe that with adequate health care staffing, medical bed space, improved medical and nursing evaluations, and support from CCHCS (California Correctional Health Care Services), improvement at CCWF will likely follow."

—By Charles David Henry

## European Countries Refuse To Supply Execution Drugs

European Union countries do not allow drugs used for execution to be exported to the United States. The reason? European countries have a fierce hostility toward capital punishment, according to an Associated Press interpretive story.

"There's one big reason the United States has a dearth of execution drugs so acute that some states are considering solutions such as firing squads and gas chambers," Juergen Baetz of the AP reported.

"The phenomenon started nine years ago when the EU banned the export of products used for execution, citing its goal to be the 'leading institutional actor and largest donor to the fight against the death penalty,'" the AP reported.

Despite the EU — and an Oklahoma pharmacy's — strong opposition to lethal injections, the U. S. continues to find means to mix chemicals for use in executing inmates sentenced to death.

During a 2014 execution in Oklahoma, witnesses heard Michael Lee Wilson say, after the lethal injection, "I feel my whole body burning."

In another Oklahoma death penalty case, inmate "Michael Taylor's representatives had argued in a lawsuit that recent executions involving the drug pentobarbital would likely cause 'inhumane pain,'" the AP reported.

Since the state of Ohio could not procure the powerful sedative pentobarbital, it took Dennis McGuire 26 min-

utes to die after a previously untested mix of chemicals began flowing into his body, gasping repeatedly as he lay on the gurney, the story reported.

In 2010, the state of Louisiana switched from the established three-drug protocol to a one-drug pentobarbital lethal injection, but eventually that drug also became unavailable because of European pressure.

***"EU nations are notorious for disagreeing about most everything when it comes to common policy, but they all strongly — and proudly — agree on one thing: abolishing capital punishment"***

The AP confirmed that Louisiana is experimenting with the same two untested drugs used in Ohio, "even though convicts' lawyers and activists argue they increase the risk of painful prolonged death and may violate the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment."

"The execution was scheduled for February, but was stayed pending a federal

judge's examination in April regarding whether the state can proceed with the plan to execute Christopher Sepulvado, convicted in the 1992 killing of his 6-year-old stepson," the report said.

"EU nations are notorious for disagreeing about most everything when it comes to common policy, but they all strongly — and proudly — agree on one thing: abolishing capital punishment," according to the opinion of AP reporter Juergen Baetz.

Totalitarian regimes abused the death penalty up through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Consequently, European public opinion is staunchly opposed to it, said the story.

The report continued, "The EU's uncompromising stance has set off a cat-and-mouse game, with U.S. corrections departments devising new ways to carry out lethal injections only to hit updated export restrictions within months."

Barba Lochbihler, chair of the European Parliament subcommittee on human rights, said, "Our political task is to push for an abolition of the death penalty, not facilitate its procedure."

"The lethal injection that they're using now in certain states has never been tested, verified let alone been approved for executions," said Maya Foa of Reprieve, a Lond-based charity fighting the death penalty "This amounts to using humans as guinea pigs. No doctor would ever do that."

—By Charles David Henry

# CRI Program Celebrates Its First Graduation

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Staff Writer

Collette Carroll, the program director of San Quentin's California Reentry Institute, continues her late husband's work by teaching inmates tools for a successful transition before they leave prison.

California Reentry Institute (CRI) is one of several programs at San Quentin that helps inmates prepare for freedom.

CRI provides inmates with necessary tools that they can use prior to and after being released. It requires two years to complete.

The curriculum consists of personalized parole planning and life skills training. It also offers post-release assistance to inmates after their parole.

"CRI is about helping pre- and post-release inmates by placing them in an environment that teaches them skills that will translate into a successful return," Carroll said.

Carroll said her proposal for assisting inmates came when her late husband, Roland, recommended that she start a different self-help program at San Quentin.

"That was IMPACT, which I started 13 years ago when my beautiful husband, Roland, volunteered me," Carroll said. "IMPACT is an acronym for Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things."

Carroll said 20 men attended her first class, so it immediately became apparent to her they were doing something good. She continued teaching the

class for 11 years.

"Years later the warden gave us the go-ahead to start this program. That's when Roland and I knew that we could do something else to cause another impact, so we started CRI."

**"CRI is about helping pre- and post-release inmates by placing them in an environment that teaches them skills that will translate into a successful return"**

Carroll is proud of IMPACT, but now her sights are set on her current agenda: gearing up for a new class after a CRI graduation Feb. 17.

"I'm astonished that we had the graduation, because we got the OK from the administration at 4 p.m. that afternoon," she said. The ceremony was held in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel in front of inmates, guests and outside volunteers.

"This graduation was an accomplishment in small miracles, but we did it, and I'm proud of the men," said Robert Morales, who has been incarcerated for more than 25 years.

Sentenced for first-degree murder, Morales, 44, said prison was challenging when he first

came in. He had a hard time adjusting to "the way people conducted themselves racially, ethically and culturally."

Morales was recruited by Carroll to join CRI after attending IMPACT. "She offered the invitation, and I knew her and what she represented, so I didn't hesitate," said Morales.

"We started out with 35 men and we graduated 25," said Frankie Smith, who met Carroll through IMPACT. "I was trained in that group to be a facilitator, and when she decided to start this group, CRI, she asked me if I would be willing to be an instructor, and I said yes."

Smith, 58, convicted of second-degree murder, has been incarcerated for 11 and a half years. He described the graduation as a hit.

"I was blown away by the network of outside people that support our program. They are people with immense compassion for our rehabilitation and our reentry into society," said Smith.

Carroll said throughout the course of the curriculum, something incredible took shape. While assisting the men



Photo by Sam Heames

Collette Carroll, Program Director of CRI and its facilitators

with their rehabilitation, she found herself gaining just as much from the experience.

"In the process of helping the men, there was an invisible, intrinsic tradeoff. As they became more aware, we found they were helping us, too," she added.

Founded in 2008 with the help of Sam Vaughn, CRI has surpassed her expectations when it comes to pre- and post-release assistance.

"We knew that what we were doing was good work, but in reality there is still much to be done," she said.

A native of Sydney, Australia, Carroll uses her 30 years of business management experience to guide CRI.

"We have a nonprofit called

the Second Chance Boutique, which is open seven days a week. We tell everybody who enters that we are a nonprofit and our profits support our pre-post-release program," she said.

In the past, inmates received no help after they paroled. But now prison administrations are beginning to see that "for a parolee to stay successful after leaving prison, after-care is essential," she said.

"As a young girl, my father always told me that succeed or fail, what really counts at the end of the day is that you tried; you gave it your all and you did your best," Carroll said. "Our program shows these men how to do that."

## Ex-Gang Member Works To Reform Criminal Justice

By Jerry Smith  
Journalism Guild Writer

Anti-gang violence campaigner Aqeela Sherills was a gang member in the Watts section of Los Angeles before he went to college. His experiences inside the gang, plus the deaths of many of his friends, inspired him to work for criminal justice reform.

On Sept. 16, 2013, he spoke about overcrowding in California prisons and his efforts to abolish the death penalty on *Black Hollywood Live*, an online broadcast network dedicated to African American entertainment news, interviews and commentary. "*Justice Is Served*" is the network's legal news show.

On the news show, Sherills talked about how his own gang experiences had shaped his life, and how in one year, 1989, he lost 13 friends to gang violence. At age 19 he began working with football star Jim Brown, co-founding Amer-I-Can in order to heal gang violence. With Brown's help, Sherills forged a historic truce between the Crips and the Bloods in Watts in 1992.

Despite his efforts, Sherills was struck by violence once more when gang members in Watts killed his 18-year-old son Terrell, home from a college spring break in 2004.

"Despair and rage are understatements for what I felt after Terrell's murder," Sherills said. "But I eventually realized that attacking the root causes of violence would not only help me deal with my grief but also lead to preventing cycles of crime."

Despite being a crime victim himself, Sherills is a fierce advocate for abolishing the death penalty. He asserts that the death penalty system costs \$137 million a year while sentencing those same inmates to life without parole would cost only \$11.5 million, freeing up funds for crime prevention. He is working to put a new anti-death penalty measure on the California ballot in 2016.

Sherills believes that funding rehabilitation and mental health services will help ease overcrowded prisons. He thinks that diverting inmates to private or out-of-state prisons is a huge waste of money that could be better spent on education and mentoring programs.

## Rehabilitation Through Gardening

*'Making a positive difference in communities outside prison walls'*

By Jimmy Martinez Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Rehabilitation is possible in San Quentin's organic vegetable garden through the Insight Garden Program (IGP), according to Andri Antoniadis a reporter for *takepart* an online news source.

Planting Justice, an Oakland-based nonprofit, supports San Quentin's IGP gardening program. Planting Justice specializes in ecological education and urban food production, according to *takepart*.

The *takepart* article cites a *National Public Radio* statistic that more than "four out of 10 inmates return to prison within three years." However, IGP said that inmates involved in its program have a recidivism rate of less than 10 percent.

"Inmates learn about food justice, the theories and practices of permaculture design, the structural inequalities of the industrial food system and how food plays a role in human rights issues," Antoniadis reported.

More than 1,000 inmates have gone through the program in the past 12 years.

Lennie Van Leonard, a participant in IGP was asked, "Are the classes nothing more than filling up some free time with vocational gardening by learning landscaping skills?"

"No, definitely not, Van Leonard said. "First, it allows us to experience a certain sense of normalcy through gardening from such an abnormal type of existence living within these walls. It also encourages us on a personal level to learn to become more centered and



Photo by Raphaelae Casala

Flourishing garden created by IGP

spiritually grounded by having a conscience, wanting to weed out the unwanted and tending to our own gardens within as well."

The *takepart* article reports that Connecticut and Minnesota also have gardening pro-

grams. "It's common for those correctional facilities to donate at least a portion, if not all, of what's grown to local food banks. That can help inmates feel like they're making a positive difference in communities outside their prison walls."

# San Quentin's Rec Supervisor Don 'Coach' DeNevi Displays His Creativity Through Painting

By Tommy Winfrey  
Art Editor

Don "Coach" DeNevi, 76, has been supervising the recreation department at San Quentin since December of 2001, and although he says he loves his job, he can't live without his art.

"Whenever I go home each day after working with my inmates on crisis after crisis, I paint. I must paint!" exclaimed DeNevi.

Growing up on the south side of Stockton during the 1940s and '50s, he says he came from a racially diverse group where, "all we cared about is if you could play ball." But what DeNevi really cared about personally was history.

He took his love of history to College of the Pacific, where he majored in history and minored in art.

At that time, he said he really wasn't interested in the applica-



Photo by Sam Heames

Coach DeNevi on the Lower Yard



Photo by DeNevi

Painting of the imaginary crops near Salinas Valley State Prison

tion of art, only the history of art. In his last semester before he was to receive his 'bachelors degree, he said, he found himself short one art class from graduating.

At the insistence of a school administrator and a desire to graduate, DeNevi said he made his way to the art department and ended up in the only class left open at the time – a watercolor course. "That course changed my life. I've been painting ever since," said DeNevi.

He often paints the landscapes that have dominated his life. He grew up in the Central Valley of California and worked in the prisons in the Salinas Valley before coming to work at

San Quentin. "My dad always wanted a grape vineyard; it has something to do with my Italian American heritage," said DeNevi.

The landscapes DeNevi chooses to paint come from his imagination, he said. "In my head I have a vision – I'm going to have this kind of landscape, this type of sky, etc., but they never turn out how I imagined."

He said this leaves him totally unsatisfied with his paintings. "If you're ever, ever satisfied with what you've done, what you've achieved, you're no artist – like my hero Gully Jimson in Joyce Carey's 'The Horse's Mouth' said, 'The act of serious, genuine creativity, imagination,

indeed the act bordering on genius because no one has ever done what you've just got through doing means that you've been rolled down a hill in a barrel of broken glass."

DeNevi said the act of creation keeps him preoccupied and uncomfortable. "That is the way it should be, though, just like a woman knows the physical pain of childbirth, an artist feels the psychological pain of creation."

DeNevi uses water-soluble paint in his own unique way; he said he starts by applying piles of paint to 300 pounds of

watercolor paper, then washing 99 percent of the paint away in his kitchen sink. The finished paintings take him between four and six weeks to complete.

Although DeNevi acknowledges art will always be part of his life, he said his creativity often pushes him in different directions. He said he has

been spending a lot of time writing movie treatments.

Another project he said he will start soon is writing the history of San Quentin. "I expect that this project will take up the next 10 years of my life."

Creating may be a painful process for DeNevi, but he has found pleasure in the time he spends at San Quentin. "I have been teaching, counseling, an administrator at all levels of education, from Adult Basic Education I at both Soledad and Salinas Valley State Prisons to grad students in the Ph.D. programs at U.C. Berkeley and U.C. Santa Cruz for 56 years... [but I] never found any position more personally rewarding than serving as coach at San Quentin."

DeNevi's art can be purchased at Stroud and Stroud Gallery in Pacific Grove, which carries six at a time. Prices for his art range between \$500 and \$800.



Photo by DeNevi

Carmel Mission

## Tony Saunders Displays Musical Talents on the Lower Yard

*'Everybody has something to offer in music; even if it's one note'*

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

On an evening in April, bassist Tony Saunders, 58, gave a memorable performance for some of the men at San Quentin State Prison. He also discussed music, demonstrated his playing style and talked about his own road to recovery.

A dozen inmates who attend a weekly guitar workshop listened to Saunders play his custom bass and discuss his career playing with greats such as Stevie Wonder.

"He's probably one of the most eclectic persons I've ever been around," said Saunders of Wonder.

Saunders played songs from his new album/CD, "Appaloosa," released earlier this year on SFRrecords. He produced and recorded the album himself.

During his visit, Saunders gave lessons on bass-playing techniques as he told anecdotes about his life, music and overcoming his struggle with addiction.

Inmate Joe Mason asked Saunders if it was "a hard transition" to go from playing on a four-string bass to a five-string bass.



Photo by Sam Heames

Tony Saunders performing for prisoners at the Day of Peace event

Saunders smiled and said, "I grew up playing Fender basses," which are typically four-string instruments. His smile was an indication that the change was not an overnight change.

"Romancing My Life" is one of the many singles Saunders performed for Kurt Huget's Thursday evening guitar class.

"My songs are all about romance," said Saunders.

Saunders said during his long career he played with the famed Oakland-based gospel group

The Hawkins Family and the Love Center Choir for several years during the 1980s.

According to his biography (on Wikipedia), Saunders released his first gospel project, "He Lifted Me Up," in 2005.

"I put a gospel recording on each one of my recordings," Saunders said.

A soft gospel song, "What Is This," is another single with memorable lyrics from Saunders' "Appaloosa" album.

"If you have it in your heart

and soul, it doesn't lie," Saunders said. "All of my songs that I've written from the heart have done well."

"Everybody has something to offer in music; even if it's one note," Saunders said.

When Saunders solos on the bass he uses many of the old-school thumping and plucking styles from the 1970s, reminiscent of Larry Graham, Bootsy Collins, Stanley Clark and Louis Johnson.

Huget played guitar, accompanying Saunders on the song "All Blues," written by Miles Davis.

Saunders said he has worked with many artists over the span of his career, including Buddy Miles and Mitch Mitchell in the Band of Gypsies and some up-and-coming hip-hop performers.

Miles "was a great guy to play with," said Saunders, adding, "The young rappers I deal with, I try to turn them back on to the music."

When discussing addiction, Saunders said he has been clean and sober since May 1983 "when my daughter was born. I haven't done drugs since then."

Aside from Saunders' pro-

fessional career, he plays for Bread and Roses, an organization that takes music to people in places where they would not otherwise have access to live performances.

Romancing his life apparently is something Saunders takes seriously. He said he is getting married for the fourth time next year.

According to Saunders' biography, he comes from a musical family. His father, Merl, a famous keyboard player, started him out with music at an early age.

"Tony received his first piano lesson from Herbie Hancock," Wikipedia reported. Sly Stone is among Saunders' early teachers.

Saunders received a fellowship and graduated from the prestigious San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Tom Fogerty, the brother of John Fogerty of the group Creedence Clearwater Revival, gave Saunders his first bass. At age 18, he played with Jerry Garcia.

In addition, Saunders has recorded movie scores, corporate videos, commercials, television shows and CDs at his studio Magic Castle.

# COMMEMORATING THE AMALA WALK

Continued from Page 1

expected,” said Texan Cranston “Breez” Smith, 23.

Breez is a fourth grade teacher, who five days earlier was in a classroom with about dozen 10-year-olds. He’s participated in every San Quentin Amala walk.

The Amala Foundation represents children from more than 20 countries, with 16 languages and various religions. The foundation holds weeklong residential summer camps in Texas and California for teenagers from around the world. The California summit, scheduled for July 21-27 in Foresthill, still has space for young men ages 14-18 who live in California. For more information go to [www.amalafoundation.org](http://www.amalafoundation.org).

“During the day, there’s a morning circle where participants can share in prayer from their culture,” said Amala representative Eden Trenor. “All meals are cooked together as a way to unite without language,” she said. “There are sports, games and talking circles.”

Trenor said the summits do not use traditional classroom settings. The children meet informally. “It’s about cultural exchanges,” she said.

“What I learned from the peace summit is, no matter what your past, there’s a con-



Photo by Michael Nelson

JulianGlenn “Luke” Padgett opens the Amala event with a prayer

nection that can be made from just being your authentic self,” said a purple-shirted Amala guest, Hanlon Johnson, 20, who’d just come from the Texas summit. Hanlon lives in Marin County. He said it was his first time inside San Quentin.

San Francisco native Matthew Makins, 67, said it was also his first time in San Quentin, “I am thrilled that we’re sharing the moment.”

An emotional Vanessa Stone said, “I cannot tell what you are giving. I thank you for that.” Stone sang a song about the values of human life. She said the lyrics were inspired by words from the Dalai Lama. “Thank

you for not wasting your human life,” she said.

“Happiness is not a limited resource,” Stone said. Amala representative Nanny said, “Thank you for showing me what a man can be.”

“I invite you to think about your life. Transformation is here,” Stone said. “What you’ve done today is to connect with a world without question. I invite you to allow yourself to be born again. Never underestimate the power of God.”

Evelyn Apoko, abducted and held captive in war-torn Uganda, survived a bombing raid and eventually made her way to the United States.

“I do not blame them for what they’ve done to me,” Apoko said, referring to the soldiers who bombed her. “We were all doing what we thought necessary to do to survive.”

Apoko said, “I look beyond my own imagination through the work that I do with Amala Foundation. The foundation has given me the voice — a voice possible in the village, and in prison. We all deserve peace and justice in the world.”

“It’s such a blessing to be



Photo by Michael Nelson

Kathy Harris and Vanessa Stone lead the first lap



Photo by Michael Nelson

Steve Emrick and Vanessa Stone address the crowd

here. It doesn’t matter where you come from. We’re all people. We all have a heart,” Johnson said. “The main thing I’ve learned from Amala is that we’re all people with a heart. It’s all here. We don’t have to search for it. So, let’s all live together. We are all one tribe, one village.”

Vid Francis, 26, said, “When someone gets beyond understanding that hurt people hurt people, they understand that

life is life.”

“After lap, after lap of walking with you men, I’ve come to understand that you are not defined by the act that got you here,” Francis added.

Breez performed a couple of *Spoken Word* pieces with inmate Antwan “Banks” Williams. In the first one, Banks began with, “I don’t wanna make a move ... Thank you Jesus, for giving me what I need,” followed by Breez rapping, “revolution sharp enough to cut the noose ‘n’ knot.”

The second *Spoken Word* piece had Dwight Krizman playing congas and Lee Jaspas adding guitar. The inspirational performance ended by Banks saying that he feels “blessed for today, because tomorrow is not promised.”

More music came by Krizman, bongos; Jaspas, guitar; Joe Mason, bass; Gino Sevacos, guitar; JulianGlenn “Luke” Padgett, keyboard. The song *Let us Pray* was written for the Amala children.

Jun Homomoto assisted Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick in escorting guests in and out of San Quentin.

“This event allows you to be involved in something larger than yourself,” Emrick told the inmates.

The fundraiser ended with more than 200 participants joining hands.



Photo by Michael Nelson

Outside guests and staff of the Amala Foundation

# ALLIANCE CELEBRATES ANNUAL BANQUET

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

San Quentin's Protestant Chapel served as an assembly hall for more than 100 invited guests, including community members from the surrounding Bay Area to witness 64 inmates graduate from two prosocial programs.

The inmates graduated from the Social Justice and Anger Management programs taught by Alliance for CHANGE (AFC).

"It's an eye-opening visit, for those who've never set foot in prison," said Jose Cisneros, San Francisco city treasurer. "We have no idea what it's like to be in here."

Cisneros said attending the graduation gave him his first opportunity to come inside San Quentin.

"We have no idea what it's like when good programs are given a chance to reach out and make a difference for folks in prison who are ready to make a change. Hearing directly from prison inmates is powerful."

AFC curriculum begins before inmates are released from prison. The process continues when the person returns to his



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Alliance for Change mentors

community with material and interpersonal support during reentry.

"Whether you are in blue or come from outside these walls, you have come here because you are committed to change," said inmate Abdur Raheem Thompson, vice-president of AFC. "If we commit to action and that action is committed to healthy community, then it is powerful."

Mentors of AFC say most of the prison prosocial programs are focused

on "self-discovery, accepting responsibility and realizing the necessity for change." However, AFC expands the process by "asking men to think critically about their role in the community and larger societal structure," Thompson said. "Action from cognition is the mental process of knowing," he added.

Kim Richman, Ph.D., president of the board of directors of AFC, said, "The power of change is why I've been coming to this prison for 11 years."

Inmate Byron Hibbert, 58, was found suitable for parole the day before the graduation. He has been incarcerated for 21 years for attempted murder.

After arriving at San Quentin in late 2011, he said he enrolled in a program called The Work. "I learned how to take responsibility for my actions," Hibbert said. "The program asked provoking

questions, and I had to answer by showing how it fits into my life. By doing that, I gained insight into my actions."

"I will be deported to Jamaica, where my family resides," Hibbert said. "I have a job as a shipping clerk waiting for me. Alliance for Change taught me how to participate in public affairs, to have a voice in the community and about the different types of social justice."

"Every lifer who goes before the board just needs to be transparent," Hibbert added. "Don't let the commissioners frustrate you. Keep programming."

Executive Producer of "Life of the Law" Nancy Mullane said, "This was a wonderful event to get together share and hear stories and see the power of change behind the walls. If only it could be more evident to the outside world."

"Thank you for letting us come here to break bread with you," said AFC facilitator Nathaniel Moore. "I've had the opportunity to work with a lot of programs, but AFC brings individual perspective to the conversation and time commitment. The amount of influence inmates have on free people is extremely powerful. Most of the folks I encounter, the lessons we learn are far more powerful than the lessons you learn from us."

"There are many who think things are fine the way they are. We still need to bring them in through empathy," Thompson said. "Empathy to those who do not believe as we do, allow them to under-



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Inmates and guests being served food



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Father and daughter duo Dr. Peter Richman and Dr. Kim Richman



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Nancy Mullane enjoying a meal with the men in blue

stand that we are listening to them. Empathy is a tool that could be used to bring a safer community. AFC allowed me to get to the door and understand the causes that led me to CDCR."

Guests and inmates broke bread at a brunch consisting of chicken strips, roast beef, macaroni and cheese, salad and vegetarian lasagna prepared by inmate cook John Parratt and his crew.

The Color Guard consisted of the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin: Team Leader Craig R. Johnson; California Flag Bearer Norfleet Stewart; Flag Escort D. Ernest Soltero; and Flag Escort David Tarvan.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Snippets

Pearl Harbor is also called "Gibraltar of the Pacific."

England, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries executed people for stealing items worth no more than 40 cents.

Approximately \$400 million was the cost of building the Panama Canal.

Clearly the Battle of Antietam became the bloodiest single-day battle in American history with close to 23,000 deaths.

Extra, extra! The Shot Heard Around The World? Archduke Franz Ferdinand was murdered in Sarajevo after six failed attempts.

First elected female to become prime minister of Sri Lanka was Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 1960. She won re-election in 1970.

Under the rulership of 18 emperors, the Sung Dynasty lasted for 320 years.

Losing 250,00 men and 600 tanks during The Battle of the Bulge, left Hitler no backup.

## Sudoku Corner

By Ashmus "Humphrey" Troy

					4	7		
7		6		5				2
		9			2			5
6	1					3		7
			4	1	5			
5		8					1	9
9			2			5		
	3			9		8		6
		5	7					

9	4	1				5		
3			6	1	4			
7						8	4	1
	1				2		9	
	3			6			1	
	6		9				3	
4	8	2						7
		3	8	5	7			6
		5				1	8	9

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

7	9	3	2	6	5	1	4	8
1	4	8	9	3	7	5	2	6
6	5	2	1	8	4	9	7	3
5	6	9	7	2	8	3	1	4
3	1	4	5	9	6	7	8	2
8	2	7	4	1	3	6	5	9
4	3	6	8	5	1	2	9	7
9	8	1	6	7	2	4	3	5
2	7	5	3	4	9	8	6	1

6	8	4	7	1	9	2	3	5
3	5	9	4	6	2	1	8	7
7	1	2	8	5	3	9	4	6
5	9	7	6	3	4	8	2	1
1	2	8	5	9	7	3	6	4
4	6	3	2	8	1	7	5	9
2	4	1	3	7	6	5	9	8
8	7	6	9	2	5	4	1	3
9	3	5	1	4	8	6	7	2

## POETRY

### Rising

By Raphael Calix

As an angelic force in the world  
 With everlasting traces of love  
 The encouragement over bigotry and hatred  
 We hear you loud and clear, Dear "Maya"  
 Marching proudly through the old neighborhoods  
 With filaments into our hearts  
 Overcoming the blight of racism  
 We found safety in her bosom  
 Mute-yet alertly listening to "Maya's" musing  
 We continue to absorb all of the love  
 Driving away the bugaboo's taunting glare  
 Here her sing, write and teach at Wakeforest  
 Living with passion and flair  
 And attentive to a quietitude within the "Doctor"  
 Indeed, loving every voice of caged birds crying  
 Visualizing the sameness in our humanity  
 Uncompromisingly stern with, say: "Thank You's"  
 Never again to sink in pity and victimhood  
 But to rise high in spirithood for "Maya"  
 Here, there can be no death, as a destination  
 For nothing may enter in to erase a legacy  
 The golden words as foot-prints  
 Of grace and magnitude of blessings  
 Duly imparted for all creeds  
 From our dearly beloved Mother  
 Esteemed into our souls  
 As rare as a gift from G-d  
 To live and rise in hope  
 Awaiting the rapture of truth

We'll love and cherish you always  
 Long Live, Dr. Maya Angelou

## Greetings from around the world



Reinhard Schewich enjoying the San Quentin News in Germany

From Around the World is a new section in San Quentin News. We invite people from around the world to send us a picture of you reading the newspaper. We hope you would include a well-known landmark in the background of your photo. We also invite you to give your take on the newspaper. So far, readers from Amsterdam, Germany and Africa have answered the call. Let's hear from the rest of the world.

## An 'OG's' Perspective

# Is There Such a Thing As a Good Prison?

By Watani Stiner  
Staff Writer

Going to prison and getting “educated” and becoming “rehabilitated” is a commendable achievement. However, what we as a society must focus on is confronting those social causes that make prison and its rehabilitative programs necessary in the first place. Society’s goal should not be on making prisons better. It should be about making society better. We should not solely focus on those prison rehabilitative programs that fix the problem while neglecting the causes.

There’s a great deal of talk about the failed and broken prison system. And, in the same breath, we hear stories

about how wonderful San Quentin is as the model for rehabilitation. Self-deprecating words such as, “I’m so glad I came to prison. If I hadn’t gotten caught and come to San Quentin, I’d probably be dead.” Does this really justify a need for “good” prisons and mass incarceration? Now don’t misunderstand me, I don’t want to dismiss all the good that has been accomplished by those who have gotten help, made amends and transformed their lives after being filtered through the prison pipeline. I just don’t think we should lose sight of the causal social problem. The problem, like the solution, has both a personal as well as a social dimension, demanding transformation on both levels.

You often hear people say things like, “Well, MY father didn’t have any government assistance and HE made it just fine,” or “Look at someone like Barack Obama; he’s African American, was raised without a father, and he made something of himself. In fact, he became president of the United States. What’s wrong with these young people?” I don’t think it’s fair that we should judge what most people are capable of by comparing them to the accomplishments of an extraordinary few. That applies to prison rehabilitation, too. Just because some people are able to come out of prison transformed against terrible odds doesn’t mean that prisons are good and necessarily helped them do that.

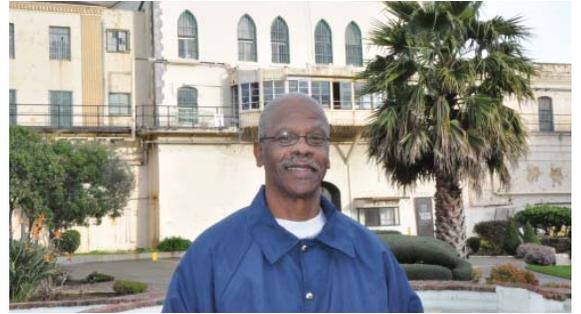


Photo by Raphael Casale

Watani Stiner

Some people will endure any horrific circumstance and find a way to grow. If there is a woman who was raped by her father, and she manages to grow up into a kind, forgiving person able to accomplish much, you wouldn’t say, “Well, maybe being raped by her father was good for her, because look how well she turned out.”

We should be mindful that there are societal forces at play influencing our lack of community. Human interactions are being interrupted and eroded due to an array of factors, including chronic addiction to drugs and technol-

ogy. These social factors destroy human relationships and alienate us from any sense of responsibility. People see the one side: Criminals lack care for their impact on others, are selfish and are willing to be destructive or greedy without considering the effect on society. But there is not an equivalent recognition of the values in society that promote such a mindset. Valuing human life, valuing honesty, looking out for others—those need to be woven into the core fabric of our vision as a nation in order for them to be lived out by most people most of the time.

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

In a story of historical fiction that takes the fatality of 40 million people, uses it metaphorically and then goes on to say, “even death has a heart,” could its readers find empathy for its narrator who reflects on life apathetically?

After grasping the fact that death is the omnipresence in *The Book Thief*, reading it takes you on an emotional rollercoaster in the course of its wartime setting. In describing impending doom, Death said, “They would all smile at the beauty of destruction,” adding, “No one had served the Fuehrer better than I.”

Markus Zusak creates *The Book Thief* through characters who come to realize that death is inescapable while living in Nazi Germany.

The story is an invariable rummage through Liesel Meminger’s life — her stepmother, Rosa Uberman, a strict but loving mama; her stepfather, Hans, who kept hold of his values throughout the story, Rudy

## BOOK REVIEW

# Even Death Has a Heart

Stiner, her best friend, and Max Vandenberg, the one she plays “stand over man” to.

Zusak peers into the everyday life of the Ubermans, doing their best to portray the blissfulness of a close-knit family during the unimaginably worst of times.

As the plot of *The Book Thief* unfolds, one cannot avoid the stark contrast between the kindnesses of the Uberman family versus societal pressure to exact evil upon innocent neighbors and friends. This German family did not buy into the social norms emblematic of Germany during Jewish oppression.

Hans overlooked the advantages of joining the Nazi party, even though it would have protected his family from rebuke

and criticism. Although Hans did eventually join the Nazi party, he simply could not buy into its racist ideology and hate Jews, as his government ordered all Germans to do. Max was his friend, and Liesel lovingly protected Max at all costs.

Even though the Ubermans’ lives had changed in the most significant way when they decided to hide Max, they had to pretend to live normally. Zusak wrote, “Imagine being slapped in the face and acting as if nothing had happened, then think of doing that day after day. That is what it is like hiding a Jew.”

However, Max could not avoid the inevitable. He lingers in the Ubermans’ basement. “The Jewish rat, back in his hole,” writes Zusak.

When Hans was sent to war,

Max lamented to Hans the dilemma of being sent to Stalingrad. Hans came back with, “It could be worse. I could be you.” Nevertheless, each day Max lived a basement life, he sought to touch the sky. He kept his head up.

As an example, Max painted all of the pages of “Mien Kampf” white and wrote a story about the “stand-over man.”

Understanding what a “stand-over man” is in relation to a teenaged book thief who is complicit in hiding a Jew became an important plot element in *The Book Thief*. It allows readers to identify with individuals who would make heroic efforts in support of the powerless, and identify the importance of uplifting the most downtrodden in society, or

appreciate the value of giving help to someone living a dismal life.

When the storyline delves into Liesel’s collection of books through thievery, it is unavoidable to notice Zusak’s sly interjection of social criticisms. A maturing plot through protagonist Liesel’s childlike voice opens the door in a belief that collective growth is inevitable and reconciliation between the forces of good and evil are to be expected.

Zusak inventories plight in a way that although disaster is anticipated, it is still poignant when read. Examples are found in the chapter *The Long Walk to Dachau*, as Hans “would perfect the art of forgetting” while the chapter *The Bombing of Munich* describes the night as “long with reading and bombing.” At one point Zusak even describes fear as “shiny.”

In *The Book Thief*, Death tells us there are many ways to dissect the living and scrutinize how we humans, as Death refers to people, treat each other.

## FCC Order Limits Cost of Inmate Collect Calls

*Prison Policy Initiative: ‘The Commission needs to hear from us that this is a critical next step’*

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Prisoners are able to make less expensive out-of-state collect telephone calls, thanks to an order by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The FCC order limits the cost of interstate, collect telephone calls made from jails and prisons.

The ruling “marks the first definitive action from the FCC to control the broken prison and jail telephone industry,”

said Peter Wagner, executive director of *Prison Policy Initiative*.

**“We absolutely agree that in-state rates must be regulated as well...”**

Beginning Feb. 11, calls home made by inmates from prison or jail no longer cost

families as much as \$17. These new rules will help to improve how the prison telephone market operates, Wagner commented.

According to *PPI*, the FCC is soliciting comments from the public related to “expanding the scope and operation of their order.”

The American Civil Liberties Union is also sponsoring a petition to spur more action by the FCC to regulate in-state calls, which account for the majority of inmate phone traffic in the United States, according to The

Nation magazine.

“We absolutely agree that in-state rates must be regulated as well. The FCC has opened up a new comment period to get public input on regulating in-state rates,” said Leah Sakala, policy analyst for *PPI*.

The FCC has also announced Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, seeking the public’s input on the possibility of other regulations. The FCC indicated it wants to make certain fees for jail and prison telephone calls will be “just, reasonable, and cost-based.”

*PPI* reported.

The FCC order sets a maximum rate of 21 cents per minute for debit and prepaid calls, and 25 cents for collect calls.

Wagner said, “The two largest prison phone companies, Securus and Global Tel Link, filed petitions to delay implementation” of the order.

“The commission needs to hear from us that this is a critical next step” in regulating the way telephone companies do business, said Sakala, referring to regulation of in-state rates.

## Health & Wellness

### Prisoners' Survey Reveals Unique Ways to Keep Healthy

By K. Himmelberger  
Staff Writer

When you think of prison, thoughts of listless inmates wasting away in cells come to mind. However, wellness is alive in the most unusual place, San Quentin State Prison. According to an informal survey, 75 percent of prisoners in the prison's West Block participated in some form of wellness activity.

The survey revealed that 37 percent walked three miles or more per week. Thirty-five percent of the participant did pushups, 30 percent meditated and 25 percent did bar work. Eleven people did yoga at least once a week, and four participated in Qi Gong and Tai Chi.

Wellness is defined as a person's overall well-being. It is a balance of mind, body and spirit. Retroflection, which is also known as meditation, is

the observation of the self, a technique Daoists use to accomplish balance. It is called "returning the light." Daoists turn the light of their awareness back upon themselves, watching their own watching and observing their observations. Once viewed from within, Daoists can separate themselves from their issues simply by letting go of them. "Daoists calm the mind in meditation through deliberate forgetting and relaxation," says Daoist teacher He Feng Dao Shi.

Qi Gong and Tai Chi are meditation and relaxation techniques used by the Chinese as traditional medicine for at least 4,000 years.

Like Qi Gong, other ancient Chinese internal healing techniques can be "described as a way for working with life energy. It may be practiced daily with the aim of health maintenance and disease prevention,"

says Harry Croft, M.D.

Internal healing techniques are intended to be harmonious with the natural rhythms of time and season. They are based on the concept of Ying and Yang, which involves meditating, cleaning, strengthening/recharging, circulating and dispersing Qi.

According to Ryan Abbott, M.D., evidence from randomized controlled trials suggests that Tai Chi and Qi Gong improve physical and mental well-being. Studies show:

Severe knee osteoarthritis pain was reduced and mood and physical functioning improved more than with standard stretching exercises.

Quality of life and the functioning capacity of women with breast cancer improved, while it declined in control groups that only received supportive therapy.

Parkinson's disease and



Photo by Sam Hearn

Bruce "Rahsaan" Banks doing yoga on the Lower Yard

stroke patients showed an improvement in balance and ability to walk. Blood level of B-type natriuretic protein, an

indicator of heart failure, also improved.

Duration and quality of sleep significantly improved.

Brain volume increased, memory and thinking scores improved.

*"Daoists calm the mind in meditation through deliberate forgetting and relaxation"*

According to the San Quentin Medical Department, there has been an increase in problems with high blood pressure, chronic pain and obesity. If used consistently, Qi Gong and Tai Chi could answer and improve the physical and mental health of many prisoners.

According to Abbott, "Mind-body practices tend to be less costly and cause fewer side effects, and they can enhance the effectiveness of prescription drugs to reduce the necessary doses."



Photo by Sam Hearn

Prisoners doing yoga in the Catholic Chapel

## Santa Clara County Expresses Concern About Security and Health Care After Realignment

By Antonio Alvarado  
Journalism Guild Writer

Realignment has Santa Clara County officials concerned about security and health care improvements in its jails, reports *Correctional News*.

Realignment is the state's response to a federal order for California to cap its prisons to levels where adequate health care could be delivered to its inmates. One component is keeping low-level offenders in county jails instead of sending them to a state prison.

An assessment made last November placed the county's jail

population at just over 4,000 inmates, nearly 700 of which were diverted from state facilities as part of the realignment plan. "Acts of violence against facility staff have increased noticeably since Realignment, up from 10 over a six-month period in 2012 to 17 in the same time frame in 2013," *Correctional News* reported. In addition, the report says there is an increase in gang activity, which caused jailers to keep rival gangs separated.

There is an older population entering the jail system, according to the report—increasing the need for medical attention to chronic illnesses.

Adding to the problems in the jails is as more inmates are shifted to its system, the number of high-security inmate rises. According to the report, the number of high-security inmates is 43 percent higher than just over a year ago, including a 30 percent increase in inmates convicted of murder.

Jail staff is also tasked with "managing a sharp increase in aging and mentally ill inmates," *Correctional News* shows. "Roughly 25 percent more inmates are requiring daily medication to manage their various conditions."

In 1997, Abel Esparza, 60, was

convicted in Santa Clara County Superior Court under the Three-Strikes law. He was sentenced to 25 years to life.

Last November, California voters changed the law so that three-strikers who were convicted of non-serious, non-violent, non-sexual felonies could ask the court for a reduced sentence.

Esparza qualified for a re-sentencing hearing and was brought to Santa Clara County jail to await his court appearance.

Esparza said the jail conditions were "terrible. It resembled CDCR, before Plata and Coleman."

The *Plata v. Brown* and *Cole-*

*man v. Brown* are the lawsuits where the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that CDCR's health care and mental health services are inadequate, thus violating the U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment.

Esparza said, "I could hardly wait to return back to San Quentin, because the jail has highly increased in gang activities."

*Correctional News* reports that the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of \$500,000 — made available through a state trust — for an assessment that "will review the jails' current capabilities and future needs."

# Federal Study Encourages Early Intervention To Curb Youth Delinquency

*'Children are exposed to violence every day in their homes, schools and communities'*

By Emile DeWeaver  
Journalism Guild Writer

Juvenile delinquency and victimization is widespread among youth aged 10-17, and early intervention is needed to cope with the problem, a federal study reports.

The report examined four categories of juvenile delinquency and victimization:

Those who were primarily delinquents and not victims

Those who were primarily victims and not delinquents

Those who were both delinquents and victims

And, those who were neither victims nor delinquents

Juvenile delinquents are sometimes victims too, but not always, according to the U.S. Department of Justice: *National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence* ([www.ojp.usdoj.gov](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov)).

"Children are exposed to violence every day in their homes, schools and communities," according to the report. "... Such exposure can cause them significant physical, mental and emotional harm with long-term effects that can last well into adulthood."

When juveniles are both delinquents and victims, they show a higher rate of victimization than juveniles who are primarily victims, the study concluded. Girls who are both delinquent and victims experience a particularly high level of sexual victimization, data showed.

In addition, juveniles who are both delinquent and victims demonstrate more delinquency than the primarily delinquent groups. Improving strategies for identifying and helping this group of children are an obvious priority, according to the study.

Juveniles who are both delinquents and victims receive less social support and experience larger rates of unhealthy parenting, according to the report. They are subject to more life adversities and mental health issues than juveniles who are primarily victims or delinquents, the study found.

The disparities in victimization are not attributed to socioeconomic status, ethnicity, family structure, disability status, school performance, and physical features, the study reported.

Researchers point to early intervention as a good place to start

fixing the disparity and suggest an emphasis on components that decrease sexual aggression and harassment. Intervention should occur before the fifth grade when pubertal changes in girls occur, the report states.

Juveniles' transitions to high school are another problem-area as the report noted that there is less supervision and more independence for high school students than middle school students. The result is that the high school experience may expose juveniles who are both delinquent and victims to older delinquent role models.

## New Proposed Sentencing Law Hopes To Solve Realignment Problems

By Wesley Eisiminger  
Journalism Guild Writer

A sentencing commission is being proposed to help solve a variety of problems in California's criminal justice system.

Supporters say such a commission would allow the state to revisit the purpose of sentencing in this post-Realignment era where the state prisons remain overcrowded. The commission could provide an informed and structured deci-

sion-making approach, which already exists in at least 20 other states.

### SENTENCING REFORM

California is in an urgent need of sentencing reform, but the road to get there may be long and arduous, said Kate McCracken of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. She was appointed in 2012 to the new San Francisco Sentencing Commission.

Would a sentencing commission do the job? McCracken asked. Since 1976, a state sentencing commission has been recommended at least nine times.

"During the past 30 years, over 1,000 sentencing enhancement bills passed in the Legislature," McCracken wrote in a CJJ blog last year. "The complexity of these bills, as well as their punitive nature, has increased the number of individuals committed to state prison with a

trend for longer sentences."

### JUSTICE REFORM

McCracken noted U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder is joining the movement toward criminal justice reform. In a speech, Holder decried the system as broken, ineffective and unsustainable.

"It's time, in fact it's well past time, to address persistent needs and unwarranted disparities by considering a fundamentally new approach," Holder said.

McCracken pointed out that the system varies among California's 58 counties. He noted that four percent of felony drug convictions result in a commitment to prison statewide. But the figures range from 17 percent in Kings County to half of a percent in Contra Costa County.

With this type percent range, it is time for California's justice system to progress into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and have fair, equitable and efficient, McCracken said.

## Senate Bills Offer Second Chance for Juveniles

*'We cannot write any child off for the rest of their lives'*

*Continued from Page 1*

cannot write any child off for the rest of their lives. We must at least give them the chance to atone and seek forgiveness for what they've done."

Gonzalez's lawyers told The Associated Press "he was a model prisoner" since entering prison for his part in the fatal attempted carjacking.

Supporters of the law that allowed Gonzalez to be resentenced said, "Those who commit crimes as juveniles should be given a second chance," the Merced Sun-Star reported.

Opponents of the law, including victim rights organizations and some representatives of law enforcement, said the law "would subject survivors to relive the experience."

"There isn't a day that goes by when I'm not reminded of the wrong, the harm and the pain I've caused," said Gonzalez.

"Young people have an incredible capacity for rehabilitation," said Yee, who is also a child psychologist by training.

According to the Merced Sun-Star, California has more than 300 inmates serving sentences of life without the possibility of parole for felony convictions committed when

they were teen-agers.

"California is among 39 states that allow judges to sentence minors to life in prison," the Sun-Star reported.

Last year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sentences of this nature are unconstitutional for minors, pointing to the use as cruel and unusual punishment.

California law already allows judges the discretion to sentence juveniles to 25 years to life, the Sun-Star reported.

Since 2012, Gov. Jerry Brown has signed two bills into law making it possible for juveniles serving sentences of life without and life with parole able to lessen their terms.

"The consequences of murder need to be severe," said Christine Ward of Crime Victims Action Alliance, a non-profit organization that lobbied against each bill.

In September 2013, Brown signed SB 260, which allows certain juveniles serving life sentences an earlier opportunity for release, the Marin Independent Journal reported.

According to the IJ, the law "requires the parole board to give 'great weight' to the diminished culpability" of adolescent offenders.

"A lot of people think if you take a life, you lose your life. I just think, particularly when

we're talking about young people, the analysis has to be deeper and more complex," said Calvin.

There is no guarantee of release. San Quentin inmate Michael Nelson's 25 year-to-life sentence does not make him eligible for the possibility of parole for another 10 years, the IJ reported.

Nelson and about 16 other inmates are involved in a prison group, Kids Creating Awareness Together (Kid CAT), made up of juveniles who were sentenced to life.

"The men have drawn acclaim for their focus on self-improvement through education and counseling," the IJ reported.

"They are proof in the flesh of why we should never throw our kids away," said Scott Budnick, a producer in Hollywood and advocate for reform in the juvenile justice system.

In 1988 Howard Jones, also a Kid CAT member, committed a double homicide and was subsequently sentenced to two life sentences

with the possibility of parole.

"I made choices that led up to the homicides as a result of my irrational thinking, confused state of mind, immaturity, lack of knowledge and life experience," said Jones.

SB 9 will not benefit Jones because his crimes did not involve special circumstances, which could have increased his sentence to life without the possibility of parole.

Jones said he is hopeful because of the ongoing steps

lawmakers are taking to establish fair and rational sentencing for juvenile offenders sentenced as adults.

"My decisions as a youth have had a devastating effect on my victim's family and friends, as well as on my own family and friends," said Jones.

Jones said new sentencing guidelines, such as those in SB 9 and SB 260, covers all categories of juvenile offenders sentenced as adults.

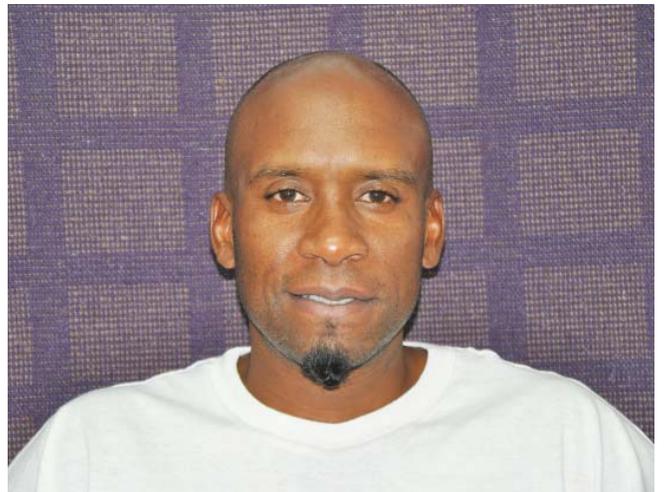


Photo by Mike Nelson

Howard Jones

# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About the Holy Month of Ramadan

*'You still have a duty to Allah to fast this holy month'*

By Aaron Taylor  
Sport Writer

## RELIGIOUS

Fasting in the holy month of Ramadan while incarcerated has challenges. Here are questions frequently asked by incarcerated Muslims:

Q1: Do I still have to fast during Ramadan even though I am in prison?

A: Yes, you do. Allah states in the Holy Qur'aan (HQ) at Chapter 2 Verse 183: *"O' ye who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, in the hopes that you will gain God Consciousness."* (HQ 2:183).

Q2: Do I start fasting when the news says Mecca has started?

A: No, you do not. Mecca is nine to 12 hours ahead of us – depending upon where you are located in the United States. Therefore, if the news report states that Mecca has started Friday, then you do not start until Saturday, the following day.

Q3: As a non-Muslim, can I fast during Ramadan?

A: Yes, you can. The verse quoted above did not say, *"O' ye who are Muslim,"* it says, *"O' ye who believe."* (HQ 2:183).

Q4: Do I, as a Muslima

(female Muslim), fast during the time of my monthly cycle?

A: No, you do not. Women make up those days missed later in the year, or they can feed a poor person.

Q5: When is the latest that I can eat Suhoor?

A: Allah states *"...eat and drink until the light changes..."* (HQ 2:185).

Q6: My breath smells during Ramadan. Can I rinse my mouth out during the daylight hours with mouthwash so I do not offend anyone?

A: It is better to use either peppermint or lemon flavored miswak during Ramadan if you are around other people who are not fasting.

Q7: Can I work out during fasting hours?

A: Yes, you can. However, do not work out to the point of complete exhaustion. Do whatever you normally do, just modify it, staying aware that you are fasting.

Q8: What am I supposed to do if I do not feel welcome at the Masjid to receive a Suhoor meal?

A: Allah states, *"...all of you hold fast to the Rope of Allah ... and be not divided amongst yourselves..."* (HQ 3:103).

Sunni, Shi'a, Sufi, Salafi, N.O.I., 5 percenter, Moorish Science Temple, etc., all must meet in the same Masjid inside of prison. Allah says, *"There is no compulsion in the religion,"* (HQ 2:256). The Suhoor is a right for all Muslims. In this type of situation, you can do the following:

1. Explain your situation to the Muslim chaplain. See if you can go get your Suhoor meal and return to your cell/dorm.

2. See if another Muslim can bring the Suhoor meal to you.

3. If neither of these works, the day before Ramadan starts, save your lunch. Then, eat that lunch as your Suhoor meal. Go to breakfast and save that, as well as your lunch. In the evening, go get your dinner and save that until its time to break your fast.

Break your fast with water and something sweet to eat (if possible). Then, after Maghrib

prayer, eat your breakfast that you saved. During the time between Isha prayer and when you decide to sleep (or if you go to sleep and wake in the night to eat something), eat the dinner that you saved. When you wake to start the day, eat the lunch as a Suhoor. You can do this every day and get through Ramadan. You still have a duty to Allah to fast this holy month.

***"All of you hold fast to the Rope of Allah ... and be not divided amongst yourselves..."***

Q9: I have to take food and water with my medication. How do I do this and still fast?

A: Allah states, *"... but whoever is sick or on a journey... feed a poor person..."* (HQ 2:184).

In this case, you have two options. The first is to break your fast and feed a poor person.

The second option is to eat and drink the amount necessary for the medication only.

Q10: Is there more than one way to fast during Ramadan?

A: No. However, there are three levels of fasting during Ramadan:

(a) The Muslim Fast is simply not eating, drinking or any form of sexual discharge during the daylight hours.

(b) The Mu'min Fast is the same as (a). However, the person fasting adds the following:

Fasting the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, arms, hands, hips, legs and feet from all things haram.

(c) The Muhsin Fast. This fasting is (a) and (b) as well as doing good work. Setting a good example for others to emulate, establishing excellent morals and character, teaching others, feeding the poor, having a smile that can uplift another's spirit.

Insha'Allah, these questions and answers bring clarity to issues that are unique to prison life. Islaam is an easy religion; humans make it difficult. May you have a blessed holy month of Ramadan.

## Jonathan 'Smiley' Wilkerson Transitions Back To Society After More Than Three Decades

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Staff Writer

San Quentin's Jonathan Wilkerson went from the juvenile system to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and now after more than three decades of incarceration he is paroling to a new life.

"You think through the years that you may not get out. That thought crushes you. Then it hits your soul that you are going to get out. I'm going to be free again—and then it happens," Johnnie Wilkerson said as he sat on the bench inside San Quentin's North Block.

When Wilkerson, also known as "Smiley," entered Juvenile Hall, he was one very scared kid.

"Juvenile Hall was scary being a kid in prison. I didn't know what to expect. The first place I hit was Chino, then Tracy, from Tracy I came to Old Folsom, then San Quentin," Wilkerson said.

This was all before 1985. He stayed at each prison for a little over a year to a year and a half. However, over the years Wilkerson said he noticed he was changing.

"It took me a lot of years, and before I realized I needed to

change I went through a lot. I was a kid, and I wanted to be the big shot," said Wilkerson. "I was holding knives, selling dope, doing things to gain attention."

Wilkerson, 52, knows now it was the wrong kind of attention. Yet as he matured over the years, he realized he wanted to get out of prison. He saw that his behavior was not going to get him out.

"So I kicked that 17-year-old kid inside of me out, because I began to believe if I truly wanted change, I had to change in my heart first," said Wilkerson. "So that was the beginning of my own journey of growing up and maturing. I wanted to become a man."

A self-proclaimed B average student with no school absences, Wilkerson said he liked learning. It was after school when all hell broke loose. His advice for today's young generation: Get away from the bad crowd and get your education.

"When you're on the right path all you have to do is keep walking, getting your high school diploma, GED and your bachelor's degree. Education is the right path," he said.

Convicted in 1980, Wilkerson was sentenced to 27 years to life for first-degree murder.

During his incarceration, he said he went to the parole board 10 times and was denied 10 times.

***"It should be state mandated... that San Quentin's rehabilitation model on helping prisoners and find a way to implement San Quentin's model statewide. Because it works"***

Wilkerson described all of his parole board hearings prior to this last one as "vicious," because when he first started attending hearings, the parole board had no intention of releasing murderers.

"This last time I went was the best board because they talked to me like I was a human being, as if they really wanted me to get out of prison. They really walked me through it."

Wilkerson believes the taxpayers of California should know the parole board suitability process needs to be improved.

"Prisoners change, especially lifers. Constant punishment, denying lifers parole by way of a rigged board, is a waste of millions of state dollars and human potential."

They should put people from the community on the board, he added. The board should consist of peers, like the students who come into San Quentin. They see inmates first hand, and see that they are not all just bad people.

In his 34 years of incarceration, Wilkerson said he witnessed several governors and wardens come and go in California. For him, he said, Gov. George Deukmejian was the worst because he was always taking parole dates from prisoners.

"As for wardens, I would say (First name?) Vasquez was by far the best. He walked around and talked to you. He made himself accessible. That should be paramount for every warden," he said.

One element of prison that has not changed, Wilkerson said, is the massive number of young and old African Ameri-

can men who keep coming into prison.

"I think it's because we're profiled out there — always in the negative. It's always the black man did it," Wilkerson said. "Racism is still prevalent in the courts, the police agencies and in prison. It's a general societal sickness. I hope it changes because as a people we could all accomplish a lot, but I haven't seen it yet."

Wilkerson said what makes San Quentin prison helpful is the education and self-help programs like V.O.E.G. (Victim Offenders Education Group), Overcomers and KID CAT plus others.

"What helps us the most are the volunteers. They have a positive attitude and don't let the media outlets tell them what and how to think about prisoners."

"It should be state mandated by Gov. (Jerry) Brown," continued Wilkerson, "that every warden in CDCR examine San Quentin's rehabilitation model on helping prisoners and find a way to implement San Quentin's model statewide — because it works."

After 34 years in prison, Jonathan "Smiley" Wilkerson paroled from San Quentin Thursday, April 3, 2014.

# News Briefs



**1. Seattle, Wash.** — The state Corrections Department has agreed to pay \$740,000 to the family of a state penitentiary inmate who died after his body was ravaged by flesh-eating bacteria, reports *The Seattle Times*. Ricardo Mejia, 26, died in January 2011. State records show he had complained for weeks about pain and a rash, the newspaper reported.

**2. Sacramento** — The private prison company GEO has been awarded a contract to house 260 female prisoners at a facility north of Bakersfield, reports the *Los Angeles Times*. The four-year contract worth \$36 million for the McFarland Community Reentry Facility will house women serving the end of their sentences.

**3. Madison, Wis.** — A documentary, *Dostoevsky Behind Bars*, is about Russian literature taught to state prisoners. The film is making a debut at the Wisconsin Film Festival, reports Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR). “In a small chapel on the campus of the Oakhill Correctional Institution, about 30 inmates gathered one evening in late February to watch the film that documents the class, as well as daily life at this minimum security prison,” *WPR* reported.

**4. Chicago** — Former U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. was reportedly punished with solitary confinement for giving legal advice to his fellow inmates, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. “An anonymous source told the *Sun-Times* that

Jackson spent four or five days in isolation when a guard ‘took exception’ to Jackson advising other inmates on their rights in prison,” the newspaper reported.

**5. Missouri** — State prisoners through the Restorative Justice Garden Program “donated a record 163 tons of fresh fruit and vegetables to local food pantries, shelters, churches, nursing homes and schools this year, shattering last year’s record of 117 tons,” the *Columbia Daily*

*Tribune* reports. The top three prisons: Northeast Missouri Correctional Center in Bowling Green, more than 30 tons; Boonville Correctional Center, nearly 25 tons; Jefferson City Correctional Center, nearly 24 tons.

**6. Lansing, Mich.** — Legislation passed by the Michigan House and was sent to the Senate to allow the Michigan Department of Corrections to issue a “certificate of employability” to a parolee who completes a training course and doesn’t have

a significant misconduct record, reports *The Associated Press*.

**7. Columbus, Ohio** — Arthur Tyler, 54, was scheduled to be executed on May 28, reports *The Associated Press*. Republican Gov. John Kasich rejected his parole and possible release following the recommendation of mercy by the state parole board, which “cited several statements by Tyler’s co-defendant taking responsibility for the 1983 shooting.”

**8. New York** — The state’s highest court upheld a settlement requiring New York City to continue individualized treatment for mental health inmates after they are released from city jails, reports *The Associated Press*.

**9. New York City** — A New York City correction officer was arrested by the FBI and charged with violating the civil rights of Jason Echevarria, a mentally ill inmate, reports *The New York Times*. Echevarria died after begging for medical help from his cell for hours, the *Times* reported. The officer, Terrence Pendergrass, was supervising the Rikers Island unit where Echevarria was being held.

**10. Toronto, Canada** — Rubin “Hurricane” Carter, 76, the middleweight boxer whose wrongful triple-murder conviction inspired a film starring Denzel Washington and a song by Bob Dylan, died on April 20, reports the *Los Angeles Times*.

**11. Tennessee** — Since the state resumed executions in 2000, nine Death Row inmates have died of natural causes, while six have been executed, reports *The Tennessean*. Of the 76 inmates on Death Row, 14 are 60 years or older.

**12. Tennessee** — Legislators passed a bill last year permitting the state to withhold all information about the drugs it plans to use in executions. Georgia, Oklahoma and Missouri have enacted similar laws withholding information about the lethal injection drugs, reports *The Tennessean*.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Drive to Become a Better Woman

**AMINAH’S EPIPHANY:**

With my freedom stripped, I awoke one morning in a cold, barren cell with the realization that I was alone in my journey. With that epiphany, I used my anger to fuel my drive in becoming a better woman.

For a while I suffered from embarrassment, hiding in prison from my community because I was ashamed of the circumstances that led to my arrest. I was disappointed in myself, for I knew that a prisoner was not how I was suppose to spend my

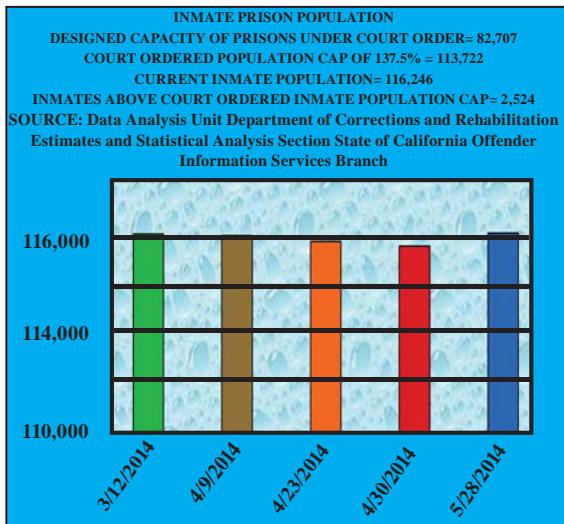
life and that I was destined for greater things, least of which entailed languishing away on a legalized plantation.

However, my sentence ensured me the time needed to piece myself back together. I’ve spent the last some-odd years attending various self-help classes as I diligently worked to rebuild my self-esteem and sense of self-worth. I ensconced myself in groups dealing with battered women, focusing on its effects, triggers and signs so as not to find myself hostage in another toxic relationship. I en-

rolled in Feather River College to achieve my associate degree in arts and humanities and entrepreneurial business certificate.

Working to get through every lonesome day, estranged from everyday that I thought I knew, days would run into years without letters or cards expressing support from not only so-called friends but family, too. It’s not easy being locked away in prison having to fight, through unyielding determination, to ensure your freedom without support, love and reassurance. For the women who are weak, they often fall victim to drugs, violence or peer pressure. However, for those few who are stronger, it fuels their determination in obtaining a better life for their children and themselves. If you believe in change, then you know everyone deserves a chance separate from the influences of the past behaviors and actions. It took years for me to learn to forgive others; however, faced with the fact that if I can’t begin to let go and forgive without judgments and resentments, how can I expect others to do the same for me?

*Aminah Dorsey  
Central California Women’s  
Facility*



### We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles June be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
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Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
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# Double Header: S.Q. Warriors Top Green Team, 77-63; Greenies Then Bounce Back, Beat the Kings, 85-84

## SPORTS

By Aaron "Jeddi" Taylor  
Sports Writer

It has been a long time coming for the San Quentin Warriors, but they finally did it: The visiting Green Team was chopped down to size, 77-63. However, the Green Team downed the S.Q. Kings, 85-84, later in the day.

"We couldn't get into a rhythm because of their zone," said Green Team's #14, Ben "The Dagger" Ilegbodu, of the first game. "We could never really get into a comfortable position all game."

The Warriors opened the fourth quarter with a double-digit lead (16 points), something they maintained since the first quarter.

Warrior Ernest "Demolition Man" Dotson hustled with 16 points-7 for 15, 6 rebounds, one assist and four steals. Leading scorer was Anthony "Half Man, Half Amazing" Ammons with 23 points-9 for 16, 11 rebounds, two assists and two blocks.

The Warriors opened the game with a 29-18 first-quarter lead.

"It doesn't count unless we

beat Green Team. No other team is worth bragging about," said Warrior head coach Daniel "The House" Wright.

"Tell me something nice; tell me I'll tall and I'll call my boys off," Caesar "Cee Money" McDowell, aka the "Heckler" and McIntosh's cellie, said to Bill Epling and Mark Ivy when the Warriors led by 15 in the second.

"My mother told me, 'When you don't have nothing nice to say....'" responded Epling.

"I hate everything you stand for," joked Ivy.

For most of the game, the Warriors employed a 2-3 zone that kept the middle packed tight. It forced The Green Team into a jump shot team, unable to take advantage of its height. The Green Team had 6-foot-10 Ted Hahs, and several 6-foot-6 players, including David King, Patrick Lacey and Mark Ivy.

The Warriors deployed several new offensive plays, including a basic weak-side motion to free up the low block and force defenders to run off of picks.

Dotson stepped in and stepped



Photo by Raphaelle Casales

Point guard Alias Jones takes a clutch shot

up for Montrell "Jack That Thang Up" Vines, the Warriors' best defender. Vines got sidelined with a severely twisted ankle that will keep him out for four to six weeks. Dotson got activate against The Green Team. He had steals at the right time. However, nothing was bigger as an ego booster to the Warriors than when Dotson jumped and blocked Ilegbodu's three-point attempt, returning it for the fast break lay-up.

"My aggressiveness came from last time, when they came in and took control. I wanted to make a statement. We worked hard and it paid off," said Dot-

son. "It means a lot to be a felon in prison and have this opportunity. I appreciated them."

"We couldn't get rebounds and we had too many turnovers," Epling said after the game. "We can't blame the refs; none of that. Today, we got beat and beat good."

Maurice "Optimus Prime" Hanks dropped a double-double with 16 points-6 for 17, 10 rebounds, with four steals; Allan "Dark Man X" McIntosh put up 15 points-4 for 18, and 14 boards, three assists, four steals and one block.

Leading scorer for The Green Team was David "The Waiter" King with a double-double 16 points, 13 rebounds, shooting 7 for 13, with two assists, one steal and four blocks.

In the second game, Epling brought in some fresh legs to play against the Kings, who had won the last two out of three games. When the game was at triple zero on the clock, the score was 85-84, Green Team.

Late in the fourth quarter, with only :10 on the clock, and the Kings down by three, Oris "Pep" Williams knocked down a clutch three-pointer from the left side that tied the score at 76-76. This forced the game into overtime.

Epling kept yelling "Shooter! Shooter!" every time Williams touched the ball, trying to keep his second team focused on all threats.

"Pep is a good player. I knew he was going to try to get a three off. I wasn't surprised when he knocked it down. He's franchise," said Lacey, who played in both games. He finished with 31 points on 9 for 19 shooting day.

Antoine "Mad Max" Maddox tried to win the game for the Green Team with a floater, but missed with two seconds left. Williams received the inbound ball in time to attempt a winning shot but Maddox blocked it. Time ran out, driving the game into overtime.

"I never complain about an extra five minutes of basketball," said Ben Draa.

In overtime, Williams hit another three to give his team the lead at 81-78.

"That was clutch," said Lacey.

Maddox's free-throw tied the game. After the Kings failed to score, Maddox dished the ball to Lacey for a post move. He made the basket and took the lead, 83-81.

Kings player Jamal "Dr. J" Green was fouled in the paint going up, but he missed both free-throws. With 44 seconds left, the Kings started fouling to stop the clock.

However, the game wasn't over. King Tare "Cancun" Beltran pushed the ball down court and went up from three-point land. With two seconds left, the Green Team turned the ball over, giving the Kings one last shot. They failed to capitalize and the Green Team won the May 3 nail-biter.

"I had to make up for my horrible performance this morning. I couldn't go out like that," said Lacey after losing to the Warriors but defeating the Kings.

## San Quentin Sports Updates

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

University of San Francisco's Tennis Team beat the S.Q. Inside Tennis Team May 3 in every set. "They give us practical potential to enhance our tennis," said Terry Slaughter, ITT.

"We came here to practice, exhibit, and clinic," said USF assistant coach Charlie Cutter.

The Warriors used high-energy play and quick substitutions to beat Imago Dei, 71-48. McIntosh led his team with 22 points, 12 rebounds, 2 steals, and a block. Ammons added 13, with 8 boards, an assist, and a steal. He was slightly out done by Imago Dei's Steve "Big Red" Sanderson's 14 points, 6 boards, 2 steals, and 1 block in their ongoing rivalry on April 26.

The Kings blew out the Outsiders, 72-52, on April 26. Jamal Green led the Kings with 15 points, 5 rebounds and 2 steals. Williams was a point shy of a triple-double with 9 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Billy Utneher led the Outsiders with 10 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 steals.

In Intramural Basketball action on April 20, Net Zero beat the Franchise, 67-58, led by Erick Nelson's 25 points and 9 boards and Michael "The Option" Franklin's 18 points and 13 rebounds. Kenneth Dozier Sr. led Franchise with 16 points and 6 rebounds.

The defending Champion Transformers improved to 2-0, with a 71-50 decisive win over the Bad News Ballers. Oris "Pep" Williams led the Transformers with 25 points and Du-

Priest "Leap" Brown added 20. Brian "The Landlord" Asey led the Bad News Ballers with 23.

The 76ers dominated Straight Balling 77-53, led by Donte "Bad Azz" Walker's 25 points and 8 rebounds. Johnny "Norm Nixon" Willis led Straight Balling with 19 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals and 1 assist.

The Richmond Project beat the S.Q. Kings & Warriors practice players April 26, 31-30; "Rich-Pro" was led by Eric Daniels with 13pts 12rbs 2ast 1stl and 3to.

In the "Meat & Potatoes" match-up (all players had to meet a minimum weight requirement of 225lbs.), the Mr. Big Stuffs beat the Big Body Benz Boys on May 3, 40-26; Mr. Big Stuffs were led by Damon "L.A." Cook, 13pts 10rbs 3ast 5stl 1blk 2to.

The visiting baseball team Mission defeated the San Quentin A's 11-4 on Wednesday, April 16.

The S.Q. Giants improve to 2-1 with a 6-0 win over the Cubs in five innings of baseball on April 17. Jeff Dumont pitched the shutout.

The A's lost 10-6 to short-handed visiting Sonoma Rockies, who borrowed Raheem Thompson-Bonilla from the A's to pitch on April 23.

The Giants defeated the visiting The REBL Giants, 5-4, on April 24.

The Giants improved to 4-1 with a 12-2 win over the Benicia Bombers hardball team. Jeff Dumont pitched another great game for the Giants. New Giants Don Spence, Richard Zorns and Mike Penalla all did well in their first game. Spence went 2-2, with two

RBIs. Penalla hit a two-run double to put the game out of reach. Zorns smashed a single into leftfield on April 26.

The S.Q. Giants beat the S.Q. A's on May 3, 9-3. Giants were led by 2nd baseman Christopher "Cuddy Bo" Smith, the teams leading hitter.

The Diego Boys softball team staged a batting clinic for the San Quentin Hardtimers, winning 27-15 in their return in the prison on April 18.

## Hardtimers Earns Last Minute Victory Over Visiting Diego Boys, 20-19

By Jarvis "Lady Jae" Clark  
Journalism Guild Writer

It was the bottom of the ninth with the bases loaded, and the San Quentin Hardtimers softball team was down two runs. Mario "Rio" Ellis belted a pitch to the outfield, scoring the winning three runs. That lifted the Hardtimers to a 20-19 victory over the visiting Diego Boys.

In the last inning with the score 19-17, DuPriest Brown hit a laser single between third and shortstop. Juan Arballo followed with a single up the middle, putting Hardtimers on first and second.

Next was John Windham. With the pressure on, he calmly turned his hat backwards, lifted the bat, swung at a sweet pitch, and hit a signal into leftfield that was caught by right fielder Sandy "Rasheed" Lockhart, who the Diego Boys borrowed. Brown and Arballo advanced to third and second.

The Diego Boys intentionally

walked Nghiep Ke Lam, loading the bases.

Then Ellis knocked in the game-winners.

"We've only beaten the Diego Boys once in two years," stated a Hardtimer.

The Diego Boys got off to a good beginning with five runs in the first inning.

The Hardtimers responded. Windham hit a deep single into right field, kicking off a rally. Ke Lam followed up with a homerun that made the score, 5-4 Diego Boys.

"Ke Lam can hit!" stated Hardtimer D. Felton.

In the bottom of the third, Ellis hit a shot into right field that brought in Ke Lam. Kevin Carr followed with a homerun, giving the Hardtimers the led at 10-6.

"First time in three seasons I hit a homerun," said Carr.

Top of the fourth, the Diego Boys rallied with homeruns by Matt Demar and James Schwedy. The score was 14-10 at the bottom of the inning.

The Hardtimers came right back. Ke Lam banged his second homerun of the game making the score 14-11. Carr got on base with a solid hit. Jordan hit a single that brought in Carr and left the score 14-13.

"Bring one in. We're down by one!" yelled Ke Lam. However, the inning ended with the Hardtimers trailing.

Bottom of the sixth, Windham smacked a double into center field. Ke Lam followed with a hit that brought in Windham. Ellis in turn hit an RBI single, making the score 15-14 Hardtimers.

In the top of the eighth, the Diego Boys went up four more runs, leaving the Hardtimers behind at 19-15 with two at-bats left.

Bottom of the eighth, Coach Dan White told the Hardtimers, "Be patient and play. Wait on the ball."

The Hardtimers responded, leaving the score 19-17 and completing the comeback in the ninth of the May 2 game.

# Visiting Oaks Hold On To Edge the A's, 11-9

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Down two runs in the bottom of the ninth, the San Quentin A's comeback stopped short and the visiting Oaks baseball team won, 11-9.

The A's last chance at bat started well when Royce Rose nailed a fastball with one out. It landed right before a far outfield fence, then bounced over, making it a ground rule double. However, he was left stranded after Hunt struck out and a shallow grounder by Bilal Coleman led to a tag out, ending the A's comeback attempt.

"More practice, minus the errors, we win," said John Windham, who had a single, double and triple.

"Our defense wasn't good, but we had good pitching and

timely hitting," said Oak Seena Nassiri about the Oaks' win.

The A's were up 8-5 at the top of the sixth, with Ruben Harper on the mound. The Oaks loaded the bases with one out. A shallow fielder's choice brought in one run. The next Oak was unintentionally walked.

Nassiri then belted a two RBI single. After Oak Rolfe Winkler was walked, Reggie Hunt replaced Harper at the mound with the score tied at 8-8.

Hunt gave up two runs, one on a bad pitch in the dirt and another on a walk with the bases loaded. A routine popup catch ended the inning, leaving the score 10-8 Oaks.

Winkler ended up going 2-2 with two RBIs, a walk, a hit by pitch and two runs scored.

The A's Windham turned a

single into a run by stealing first, then second, then home plate in consecutive plays, making the score 10-9.

In the top of the seventh and final inning, the Oak's Mr. "No Comment" hit a single that brought in one run, making the score 11-9.

Oak Mike Ostler had a chance to take second base but was tagged out because he wouldn't slide. "My pants got pretty dirty last week. I can't wash them every week," he joked about not sliding.

It was the first time playing in San Quentin for most of the Oaks.

"It an honor to be here. I love it but I like being able to leave, too," said Adam Dietz.

"It's cool. It makes you appreciate stuff," added Nate Overlid.



Photo by Leroy Lucas

First base Nate Overlid holding the A's Bilal Coleman at first

## Eddie Herena Breaks 6-Mile Record With 37:56 Time

By **Aaron "Jeddi" Taylor**  
Sports Writer

Aided by a cool breeze, Eddie Herena broke a 1000 Mile Club six-mile record with a time of 37:56, shattering the previous record of 38:40 held by Miguel Quezada.

"It felt great. I definitely put the work in and hard work pays off," said Herena.

Abdul Khadeer Morceli finished second in the May 9 event with a time of 39:20; Bernard Ballard was third at 41:09.

Edward Scott finished with a time of 58:08 despite medical problems. He left the doctor's office the day before, where he learned he'd have to go to an outside specialist for his various ailments.

"The doctor said I can continue my regular routine, so I'm not running for time. I'm just running," said Scott.

"I'm not out here to race six miles. I'm out here to show what a 313-pound man can do. I'm looking to complete the run," said Marlon Beason, who finished in 1:00:54.

"I'm going for a lifetime achievement award!" enthused



Photo by Sam Hearn

Eddie Herena

Gerry Gearin, a 1000 Mile Club veteran, with arms raised. He posted a time of 48:32.

Volunteers, timekeepers and sponsors encouraged the runners as they came by the starting line, passing out cups of water.

Jill Friedman stated, "They may not even want any water. It's only six miles."

Herena completed the first lap in 1:30, setting a pace for

the entire run. Morceli, with Carlos Ramirez, followed him.

In lap 15, Malcolm Jones stepped off the track with a tender hammy. "I'm going back in; I just need to pause to let it relax some," Jones said while massaging his hamstring.

Herena, with two laps left, had a time of 35:06.

"He's looking to break Miguel's (Quezada) record," said Ralph Ligons.

"Let's go, Eddie!" the crowd was the yelling, urging him forward.

Herena's final lap time was 1:25.

Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick commented about Herena breaking the record.

"What it means is that we have several programs that benefits inmates; he broke a record, and the hard work that it takes to train to do that are all life skills that a person can take with them when they leave prison. The fact that we have these running programs, and a record being broken, is a testament to that," Emrick said.

Clifford Williams, 53, finished with a final time of

**Results From the Six-Mile Run:**

<b>Eddie Herena</b>	<b>37:56</b>
<b>Abdul Khadeer Morceli</b>	<b>39:20</b>
<b>Bernard "Abdul Raheem" Ballard</b>	<b>41:09</b>
<b>Carlos Ramirez 4</b>	<b>3:35</b>
<b>Larry Ford</b>	<b>43:35</b>
<b>Glen Mason</b>	<b>45:14</b>
<b>Abel Armengol</b>	<b>45:36</b>
<b>Jose Sandoval</b>	<b>45:41</b>
<b>Bill Sullivan</b>	<b>45:47</b>
<b>Gerry Gearin</b>	<b>48:32</b>
<b>Clifton Williams</b>	<b>49:56</b>
<b>RaHsaan Thomas</b>	<b>54:21</b>
<b>Eric Moody</b>	<b>54:38</b>
<b>Andrew Gazzeny</b>	<b>57:26</b>
<b>Eddie DeWeaver</b>	<b>57:51</b>
<b>Edward Scott</b>	<b>58:08</b>
<b>Malcolm Jones</b>	<b>59:23</b>
<b>Marlon Beason</b>	<b>1:00:54</b>
<b>Leroy Lucas</b>	<b>1:08:11</b>
<b>David Samuel</b>	<b>53:40 4.5</b>

**Sponsors: Frank Ruona, Diana Fitzpatrick, Kevin Rumon, and Jill Friedman.**

49:56, and commented, "Aw, it wasn't anything, a piece of cake - something I do all the time. I've been running all my life; since I was walking, I was running."

Herena said breaking the record "wasn't easy. It was tough. (Ligons) was congratulating me that last lap. He's my

coach. He shares in the record. He made a difference in the last lap."

"Feels like I got one more year of bragging rights. Not that I'm going to brag, but if I choose to, I can," Eddie said with a huge smile on his face, still breathing hard, cooling down.

## Reigning Champs Defend Tournament Titles

Reigning champions won most of San Quentin's latest chess, pinochle, horseshoes, Ironman, handball, pingpong and tennis tournaments.

Vincent "Osiris" Mackey successfully defended his chess title. He said he has been the chess champion for three years straight. "I've been waiting for somebody to come along who can consistently beat me more than I beat them," said Mackey.

He learned how to play chess by watching his bunkie play. Mackey credits his success to adoptability - seeing his opponents' style and adopting a strategy to defeat it.

Mackey said he loves chess because "it's a pure game. Cards have a luck factor involved because it depends on

the cards you get. Chess is mind against mind; no luck involved."

He added, "It takes my mind off the horror of being in prison. It keeps my mind sharp. It keeps me thinking strategically. Wars are waged in part on how chess pieces move," he added.

San Quentin has "many good chess players who don't play in tournaments. I wish they would," commented Mackey.

Isaiah Daniels teamed up with Elias Solis and won the horseshoe competition. Daniels has won the horseshoe doubles for three years running, even with different partners.

"I've won every double and all but one single contest. I love horseshoes, but don't feel I have the competitions I need

or want," said Daniels. "It feels good being a champion."

The Ironman Tournament was modified to include additional challenges, but was still won by defending champion Dean Soriano. He pushed a weighted wheelbarrow up a hill, did 20 pull-ups, 50 push-ups, 50 squats, carried a punching bag around baseball bases, pushed the wheelbarrow again and ran a lap in seven minutes, 8 seconds. Darrell Flowers came in second with a time of 7:40.

Osborn Walton won pingpong again, retaining his title.

Pinochle champions Jeffrick Brown and Johnson successfully defended their title. Tyrone Allen and Lamore Jones came in second.

Terrance Banks and B. Chattman won handball doubles

and the championship; former champs Michael Thompson and Bozzie Burton came in second.

Mcdowell and Wiley won the dominos title; Paneda and Sanchez took second.

The second annual Don De Nevi Memorial Day Tennis Tournament was full of upsets.

Paul Oliver upset previous tournament winner Rick Hunt, 12-8, 9-12, 12-9, securing his position in the round of eight.

Oliver defeated Tim Thompson and Al Lee, placing himself in the championship round. Paul Oliver defeated Clay Long in straight sets, 12-6, 12-6.

Nighiep Ke Lam dusted off his tennis gear and eliminated Rico Winfrey in straight sets, 12-8, 12-3.

Ke Lam faced past champi-

on Alleyne in his quarterfinal match, coming back after losing the first set. Ke Lam battled with groundstrokes, overpowering Alleyne, 4-10, 10-3, 10-8.

Oliver and Ke Lam faced one another in the finals. Ke Lam won the first set 10-8; however Oliver stuck to his game plan. Oliver used big serves and net play to pressure Lam. Oliver went on to win the next two sets and take the championship, 10-6, 10-4.

Several Inside Tennis Team members expressed gratitude to coach Don DeNevi for his support of the net program.

The tournaments were held on Memorial Day weekend.

-By *Rahsaan Thomas, Michael Panella contributed to this story*

# DELIVERING MESSAGES ABOUT FATHERHOOD

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

June has interesting celebrations: National Candy Month, Potty Training Awareness Month and National Safety Month, according to the World Almanac.

June is also Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month. Pentecost Sunday is on June 8, Flag Day is on June 14 and the first day of summer begins on June 21. Ramadan will most likely begin on June 28.

Father's Day is always the third Sunday of June.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Valeray Richardson

*Asked on the Line* conducted brief informal interviews with men on the mainline, asking: "Are you a father? How many children do you have? Did you grow up with a dad or father figure? If not, who were your male role models? Send a message to your dad or father figure."

Julian Glenn Padgett said he has no children, adding his biological father did not raise him. However, there were two men in his life who he looked up to: Jim Lee and John Speth.

"Jim Lee was a single father," said Padgett. "He always made time for his sons Jim, Jeff and James. He treated me like family. He even taught me how to water-ski. Thank you, Jim."

"John Speth of Fair Oaks, California, was a good family man," said Padgett. "He took care of his family. He was someone I would want to emulate when it came to taking care of family. He really made an impression on me. He was a good provider, listener and husband. He was a good partner to his wife. He was there for his children. Thank you John for showing me what my father never did."

Jesus Flores has two daughters. "The oldest is shy and quiet. The youngest is bold and loud. They are both complete opposites. They've graduated from high school and are married now. I am very proud of them," said Flores.

"I grew up with a dad," said Flores. "He was in the Army. So, he was very strict but, he always wanted what was best for all of his kids. He was a hard worker. I love you dad. Thank you for being there for all of us."

Aaron Brock has one child. His most memorable moment was when his child was seven years old. It was during a visit in Lancaster. If he could send his child a message it would be: "I am sorry," he said.

Brock's father is deceased. But, what he admired most about his dad was "being there," he said.

Brian Asey has a son and a daughter.

His most memorable moments with his children are when they were very young, when his son was 6 and his daughter was 5. "We used to play together. Each one would hang on to one of my legs as I walked. It was funny."

Asey's father passed away. But, he still remembers when he was a boy, "my dad would take me to work with him," he said. Asey also had a stepfather. "I remember that my stepdad instilled in us to not tell on



Photo by Sam Hearn

Joey Mason

other. No snitching. If I told on my brother, he would punish my brother, but then he would punish me for telling on my brother," said Asey.

Adriel Ortiz Ramirez has no children. However, he said he grew up with his father. "I remember going on a lot of family trips with him," said Ramirez. "Thanks dad for all of the advice that you gave me over the years."

Aaron "The Jeddii" Taylor has no biological children. "I have two nieces, two nephews and a godson. Those are my kids. To all my children: Knowledge and wisdom are in storehouses. The key to open a storehouse is a question. Never fear asking a question," said Taylor.

Taylor did not grow up with his biological father. "My grandfather, L.B. Turner, was my No. 1 one role model. He was not my biological grandfather, but he was everything I could possibly want in a father figure." Steve Wade Sr., Myles Delaney - Taylor's uncles - William Fant Jr. and George Jernigan played significant roles as father figures, as well.

Timothy Thompson has no children. He said his football

coach served as a father figure. "What I admired most about him was that he never got upset when I made a mistake. He was always patient with the kids. You were a good man, coach. You had a positive impact on my life," said Thompson.

Valeray Richardson has a daughter and a stepdaughter. Richardson is proud of his daughter Raenisha "because of her lifestyle. She studied nursing, finished school and got married. She is very respectful and did not get into trouble. She reminds me a lot of me because we are both Gemini. She's a little me," said Richardson. "My daughter Monique is into sports. She got a scholarship to attend Smith University. I am proud of her. Her catch phrase is, 'calm yourself.' I love her very much."

Richardson's father passed away, but his memories of him are very much alive. "I admired his humor and the way he showed love for all of us. Dad, you're my hero," he said.

Joey Mason has no children. He said he did not grow up with a father or father figure. "I had two stepdads. One was an alcoholic and the other was a redneck," he said.

Mason said he believes he would be a good father, if he decides to have children. "I would be the opposite of everything my stepdads were to me, no drugs and no violence. I would be involved in my kids' life. They would know that I got their back. I will always help them. I will do as much as possible to expose him to positive things and show them support, kindness and love," said Mason.

Richard Morris has a son. He said he's proud of his son because "he finished his education and is a physical therapist. He also has a good work ethic."

Morris grew up with a father. "He was married to my mother

for over 40 years. He was a very hard worker. Dad, I am sorry for the mistakes that I made. I wish I could have been a better son."

Manuel Sanchez Murillo has two children, a son and a daughter. Even though he has been imprisoned for almost 28 years, he said his kids are not resentful of him not raising them. "They had the support of their grandparents, their mother and a stepfather. I am very proud of them. They finished school and I don't think they are ashamed of me."

Murillo did grow up with his father. "What I admired most about my dad was his honesty," said Murillo. "He did what he could to take care of us. He passed away, but he is still my role model. I admire him very much to this day."

Ed Ballenger has two sons. "I have not seen them in over 20 years," said Ballenger. "But through my niece, I know that they are OK and both are working."

Ballenger's father raised him. "He was there for me. For one thing, he provided well for his family. He was a balanced individual. He gave good advice. I love you dad." Ballenger's father passed away at age 90.

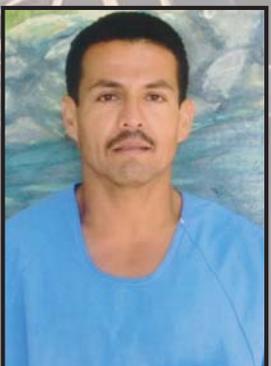


Photo by Sam Robinson

Ed Ballenger

## Father's Day Appreciation from the Inside

Si volviera a nacer quisiera que Santiago Gómez fuera mi padre de nuevo otra vez para seguir su ejemplo. Aunque ya no lo tengo conmigo, estoy orgulloso de que él fue mi papá. En donde quiera que Dios lo tenga, por siempre gracias



File Photo

Jesus Sanchez

padre por la crianza que me diste, **Vicente Gómez.**

**Maximino Sánchez,** te mando estas felicitaciones por ser el día del padre. Me siento muy orgulloso de usted y si Dios me diera la oportunidad de volver a nacer quisiera que usted fuera mi padre otra vez. Gracias por la crianza que me dio. Dios me lo bendiga en este día tan especial, su hijo **Jesús Sánchez.**

**Ignacio Pureco,** de tu hijo, Gustavo Pureco, que mucho te extraña, espero que te la pases bien el día de los padres.

**Salvador Lozano,** que en este día del padre te la pases bien en compañía de la familia. Tu hijo que te quiere y extraña mucho, **Arturo Lozano.**

Manuel, le deseo un feliz día de los padres y que siempre reine la felicidad en ti. Tu hijo que te quiere, **Eduardo**

**González.**

**Marciano Ortega,** gracias por todo tu esfuerzo y trabajo. Gracias por corregirme cuando lo he necesitado. Feliz día de los padres, tu hijo **José Ortega.**

**Jefe,** gracias por haberme dado la vida y ser el mejor padre del mundo. Perdóneme por haberle fallado. Espero algún día volver a recuperar su confianza. Lo quiero de a madre. Feliz día del Padre, su hijo **Fortunato López.**

Happy father's day. Thank



Photo by Sam Hearn

Mike Nelson

you for all your sacrifices you made for me. Love you dad, your son **Binh Vo.**

Dad, thanks for being there for me. I wish you the best on this father's day. With much love your son, **Vi Cham.**

Father's Day is not limited to the biological sense of the meaning behind the term "father." On this day, I celebrate my great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, and mother...who all stepped into the role of my father when my father wasn't able to, **Michael Nelson.**

### Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.