

San Quentin News



WRITTEN BY THE INCARCERATED – ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE



VOL. 2020 NO. 2

February 2020 Edition 125

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 4,053



Photo courtesy of Scott Budnick

Vlade Divac hugging an incarcerated person

When sports turn an eye toward prison

By Joe Garcia
Journalism Guild Chairperson

The Sacramento Kings showed love to Folsom State prisoners during a special night of community healing. In a circle within the prison chapel, they shared life experiences before celebrating Folsom's newly renovated outdoor basketball court.

Kings players, owner Vivek Ranadive, coach Luke Walton and others joined filmmaker-turned-social activist Scott Budnick to hear personal stories from incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals at the Play For Justice event Dec. 12.

"My recent visit to Folsom State Prison hit me in the gut in a way I have rarely felt before," Ranadive wrote in a *Sacramento Bee* op/ed. "140 years of captivity, fear and hopelessness hung in the air."

Similar to San Quentin State Prison's style of public tours, the outside visitors, including Sacramento

City Council member Steve Hansen, walked through one of Folsom's housing units—to see for themselves how California treats its prisoners.

"The men—two to a cramped cell that looked like a cage—stared at us with hollow eyes," Ranadive wrote. "I know there are victims on the other side of the equation..."

"But seeing men in such conditions is something I will never forget."

What seemed to move Ranadive the most, however, was the time spent in the circle listening to voices of incarceration.

"Each person spoke with honesty and integrity—more than I encounter in daily life," he said. "There were no excuses."

"Each took complete responsibility for their actions and—even when the hope of leaving prison was slim—worked hard every day to better themselves."

See *Justice* on page 23

Offering cultural education through Kwanzaa

By Anthony Tariq Faulk
Managing Editor

Over 100 San Quentin residents ushered in Kwanzaa 2019 with a night of enlightening and culturally relevant speeches and inspiring performances. The speakers and performers focused on uplifting African and African American culture and acknowledging the ways they have contributed to society at large.

The December 26 celebration was organized by Arthur D. Jackson

and his wife Veronica, who assisted with planning. Speakers included incarcerated artists and social justice organizers who emphasized the importance of using Kwanzaa as an opportunity to celebrate Black culture.

Dejon Joy, the event's emcee, led a group of brothers in the reading of the seven principles of Kwanzaa before the performers and speakers took the stage.

See *Kwanzaa* on page 3



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Lit candles for Kwanzaa celebration

SQ keeps tradition of giving

Veterans' Toys for Tots continues to warm the hearts of many



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

One-and a-half-year-old Zy'ir Lewis chooses his toy

By David Ditto
Staff Writer

The cheer of Christmas giving filled the San Quentin State Prison visiting rooms as children celebrated the holidays with their incarcerated loved ones in December.

"We got absolutely excited!" said 11-year-old Omar Elias, who came to the prison to visit his uncle Ramon Ruelas. Elias and his younger brothers Ismael and Danny were three of about 100 children who got toys during San Quentin's Annual Holiday Toy Program.

"You should visit me more and get more presents," said Ruelas, laughing with his nephews. During his 10-year incarceration, they had visited before but this was their first time getting toys.

The other prisons where Ruelas was before coming to San Quentin in 2018 didn't have toy giveaways for children, but incarcerated veterans at San Quentin have kept the Toys for Tots tradition of holiday giving alive for 31 years.

"It's a really great act. I really appreciate it!" said nine-year-old Danny to the veterans who gave them the toys.

"Seeing the little kids' eyes light up when they see the toys really gives me hope," said Marine Corps veteran Carl Raybon, the new chairman of the Veterans Group at San Quentin (VGSQ). The 35-member group of incarcerated veterans organizes the toy giveaway each year.

Raybon was one of six veterans wearing pointy red and green striped elf hats and blue VGSQ hats who offered toys and holiday cheer to every family with children visiting during the weekends before Christmas and on Christmas Day.

See *Toys for Tots* on page 11

Highlighting an early Californian abolitionist

By Marcus Henderson
Editor in Chief

The Southern States are the usual focus of discussions about African American freedom struggles before the Civil War. But California had its own prewar struggle against racism and slavery.

Unlike Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks or Harriet Tubman, Californian Mary Ellen Pleasant's name is rarely discussed. But Pleasant has been hailed as the mother of the abolitionist movement in California during the Gold-Rush era, according to *Gold Chains: The Hidden History of Slavery in California*, a web-based series created by the ACLU of Northern California.

Pleasant was a self-made millionaire and civil rights leader. Like many others, Pleasant and her husband moved to San Francisco seeking to make a fortune during the Gold Rush.

Pleasant began working as a cook and she would reportedly eavesdrop on wealthy customers' conversations in the hopes of overhearing valuable bits of information about financial transactions.

What she learned helped her make a substantial fortune. She built a strong, diverse portfolio that included real estate, railroads, res-

taurants, and boarding houses. She was known as a wise investor and became one of the richest women in the city, according to the ACLU report.

Abolitionist John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry in Virginia might

have been partly financed by her, according to some historians. The unsuccessful 1859 raid was led by both Black slaves and White abolitionists.

See *History* on page 4



Mary Ellen Pleasant

File photo

Inside this issue:



BOXER AND TAP
DANCER JOE
ORRACH
ON PAGE 3



ESPAÑOL
ON PAGE
15-16



SPORTS ON PAGE
21-22



NO MORE
TEARS GRADU-
ATION
ON PAGE 2

San Quentin News is written and produced by prisoners. We are supported solely by grants and donations from the outside community. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit our website at: sanquentinnews.com or send a check or money order payable to: **Social Good Fund/"Friends of San Quentin News," P.O. Box 494, San Quentin, CA 94964**



Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael
Rotary Club of Novato
Rotary Club of Oakland



**Thank you
for your support!**



Two dozen graduated from violence prevention program

A Recipe for Healing By Linda Heiderer

In a large bowl combine:
a bunch of Rocky's tenderness
a cup of Drew's enthusiasm
stir in the light that shines in Mel's eyes
and a touch of Lee's deep faith
Then fold in Warren's belly laugh
with a slice of D'Angelo's smile
add a sprinkle of Matt's sincerity,
a pound of Dwight's encouragement,
a tablespoon of Reese's leadership,
a handful of Aaron's softness,
a dash of Jajuan's thoughtfulness,
a pint of Shaka's silver words,
a heap of Spike's vulnerability,
all of Adam's courage,
the magic of Nefu's poetry and a heaping
scoop of every graduate here.
In a second bowl add all those who love you
Combine bowl one and two
and add Lonnie Morris to taste
Mix thoroughly
Keep the heat warm and low
and watch the healing rise.



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

No More Tears graduates and volunteers with Alameda DA Nancy O'Malley

By Juan Haines Senior Editor

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley joined Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson on a trip inside San Quentin to watch about two dozen incarcerated men graduate from a violence prevention program.

"What I see at this graduation is more than what we ask for in our citizens out there," O'Malley told the graduates of No More Tears. "You have dug deep to understand your life. Most people don't do that. It would be easy for you to have stayed on the yard, but it takes courage to come in here and do the work and be change agents."

The theme of the graduation was "Living A Courageous Life."

"Change doesn't start and stop," Dwight Kennedy, one of the incarcerated facilitators told the graduates. "When you begin your change into this

courageous life, it's a lifelong process. When you go back to your housing unit and talk to your cellie or your family, you have to share what you've learned here."

Carson added, "I can't talk to people on the streets, like you can. That is the fundamental difference in what you do here."

Lonnie Morris, the lead incarcerated facilitator, addressed the graduates.

"Everybody has shown their vulnerability," Morris said. "That takes courage. Every man in this room has shared their story and have torn down barriers—from that we have developed empathy. As human beings, we want to personify. Living a courageous life is to leave negativity behind, and be someone different with core values that respect all human beings. We say No More Tears for a reason."

DeAngelo Hardin-Prince, the youngest of the graduates,

said, "I learned about triggers when I got in this class. It helped me deal with people on the yard—it helped me a lot."

O'Malley talked about what she learned from listening to people impacted by the criminal justice system. The reason she said was to find a program that would solve "what is hurting our community."

O'Malley came up with Developing Impacted Lives (DIL). The program reaches out to the youth to supply them employment, housing and educational opportunities.

"We have 18 certified DIL Peer Support Specialists, and we are working on a second class of certified specialists," O'Malley said. "The people getting out of prison and going through this training have a zero percent recidivism rate."

She added, "I will be happy to greet you when you come home, and I will even offer you a job."

Sheri Mendoza, an outside supporter, said, "I believe in the program, and I believe in you. I don't have to know you to believe in you."

Andrew Wadsworth and Linda Heiderer read poems inspired by the program.

Hamisi X. "Ski" Spears ended the graduation with a Spoken Word performance that got a standing ovation and had the audience joining in by repeating U-N-I-T-Y.



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Alameda DA Nancy O'Malley, volunteers and graduates at the Muslim Chapel



Photos by
Javier Jimenez
SQN

Inspirational entertainer urges others to claim their unique identity

By Charles Crowe
Staff Writer

Finding your unique voice and identity is important for everyone, boxer-tap dancer Joe Orrach illustrated for a San Quentin Prison audience.

The show encouraged incarcerated people to tell their own stories as part of their rehabilitation, making the show more than just entertainment for San Quentin residents.

Nearly 100 people made up the audience in the Protestant Chapel on Dec. 13 for the program titled In My Corner.

Orrach told his story with a combination of boxing moves and tap dancing, reflecting his past as Air Force welterweight boxing champion turned professional tap dancer.

He narrated, danced and mimed his authentic tale of

growing up in the Bronx, the son of a Puerto Rican father and an Italian American mother. The dominant themes in Orrach's progression from boyhood to young man were boxing, dancing, and his struggle to gain the approval of his hard-to-please father.

The show began with Orrach jumping rope on a raised wooden platform, tapping out a beat each time the rope arced over his head. The slap of the rope against the wood blended with the tapping. "I loved when he was able to incorporate his jump rope into his tap rhythm," said San Quentin resident Loren Mears.

As the story progressed, the boxing theme continued, with Orrach punching a speed-bag to a smooth jazz beat.



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

The Boxer Joe Orrach showing his tap-dancing skills and punching the speed bag



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Orrach and friends at San Quentin

San Quentin News

San Quentin News Staff

Richard Richardson, Executive Editor
 Marcus Henderson, Editor-in-Chief
 Juan Haines, Senior Editor
 Kevin D. Sawyer, Associate Editor
 Anthony Faulk, Managing Editor
 Joe Garcia, Journalism Guild Chairperson
 Aaron Taylor, Sports Editor
 David Ditto, Staff Writer
 Michael Johnson, Staff Writer
 Anthony Carvalho, Staff Writer
 Charles Crowe, Staff Writer
 Heriberto Arredondo, Staff Writer
 Jesse Blue, Staff Writer
 Kerry Rudd, Staff Writer
 Timothy Hicks, Staff Writer
 Javier Jimenez, Photographer
 Juan Espinosa, Layout Designer
 Jonathan Chiu, Layout Designer
 Richard Lindsey, Researcher

Staff Administrative Review

Lt. S. Robinson, Warden's Office
 Sgt. R. Gardea, Warden's Office
 Joe Orlando, CDCR Information Officer I
 Krissi Khokhobashvili, Deputy Chief CDCR Office of External Affairs
 Linda Xiques, Adviser
 William Drummond, Adviser
 Jan Perry, Adviser
 Joan Lisetor, Adviser
 Stuart Wagner, Adviser
 Steve McNamara, Adviser
 John C. Eagan, Adviser
 Jon Spurlock, Adviser
 Susanne Karch, Adviser
 Nikki Meredith, Adviser
 Monica Campbell, Adviser
 Lourdes Cárdenas, Editora
 Lisa Adams, Development Manager

Current and past stories of the San Quentin News are posted online at: www.sanquentinnews.com

Follow us on Twitter @SanQuentinNews

Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in the San Quentin News provided credit is given to the author and this publication, except for articles reprinted herein from other publications.

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 will 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 artwork (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:
 San Quentin News
 1 Main Street
 San Quentin, CA 94964

For inmates that want to receive a copy of the San Quentin News in the mail, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to the above address. The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

Behind the Scenes



The San Quentin News is printed by Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael.

Mears smiled when he recalled this part of the act, "What really impressed me were his speed-bag skills," Mears said. "Every time he threw a punch, his whole body was in it. You could tell he was a very good boxer."

"I had never seen anyone act out his whole life all by himself," said Mears.

The former boxer appeared to be in fight condition as he moved vigorously, without breaks, throughout the 75-minute show.

Orrach reported it was through his boxing that he ultimately gained his father's approval. That breakthrough came on the night of his first fight, which he

pantomimed for his San Quentin audience. Knocked down three times in the first round, he came back to win the fight in the second.

He retired from boxing after five years and moved on to a successful career in dance. As a young boxer, he had been encouraged to study ballet by his trainer. He ultimately found his dancing niche in tap, touring internationally and dancing with greats like Gregory Hines.

At one performance, Hines was in attendance. In a tribute to Orrach, Hines "threw his shoes on the stage," said Orrach's script writer, Lizbeth Hasse.

On stage with Orrach were composer and key-

board player Matthew Clark and percussionist Dan Gonzalez. They skillfully blended their supporting sounds with Orrach's movement and narrative.

Pauses in the act were consistently met with applause and the audience frequently broke into laughter.

Orrach told his story with humor, passion, and intensity in English (with a Bronx accent) and in Spanish.

When he lapsed into Spanish, it invariably evoked laughter from Spanish-speaking audience members, who seemed to share an inside joke. Bilingual audience member Luis Figuera confirmed that Orrach was indeed

sharing some good-natured fun with his fellow Spanish speakers.

A promotional flyer explained that "Orrach and his team work to illustrate the challenges and importance of finding one's unique voice and identity."

Orrach has presented the show in a juvenile facility, but this was the first performance in an adult prison.

After the show, audience members responded with a standing ovation and lined up to shake Orrach's hand, thank him, and praise the performance.

Orrach, perspiring heavily from the intensity of the performance, looked like a boxer after a fight.

Kwanzaa

Continued from Page 1

"Kwanzaa represents a striving for freedom, a celebration of liberation and foundational principles that we reconnect with at the end of the year to take us into the next," said Alyssa Villanueva, a Civil Rights attorney, who taught a Black Studies workshop at SQ for the college program.

"Our minds—our knowledge—is power. To say that it is threatening is not a cliché," she continued.

"This was more informative and entertaining than I thought it would be. I'm glad I came," said Gene McCallum, an incarcerated resident, referring to the speeches and performances.

Villanueva also highlighted the role that cultural knowledge played in the successes of Malcolm X, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Black Panthers Party.

"The individuals and organizations who came before us fighting for our freedoms looked to these principles—and they still provide the basic needs to thrive as human beings."

Hamisi X. Spears got a standing ovation after delivering a powerful rap performance with lyrics meant to inspire people of color to become more politically and socially conscious. In one verse Spears belted out, "66 never had a chance to pass. My brothers and sisters wouldn't get off their a#* to vote—the final result, we lost at the end, and half our families are in the pen."

Following Spears, Malik Ali, another resident, gave a moving spoken word piece and Rhashiyd "RawLMNO" Zinnamon performed a lyrical masterpiece titled "Grown-ManMusic."

"Peace to you if you're willing to fight for it," greeted Yoel

Haile, an ACLU criminal justice program manager, to the crowd.

Haile, who also taught the Black Studies workshop, established Africans' impact on the world by pointing to Prophet Moses' presence in Egypt, the first churches in Ethiopia, the Islamic migration to Ethiopia, and the African origin of universities.

"Part of knowing who we are is knowing who we were and who we want to be," said Haile.

"We are now serving the enemies' needs at the expense of the doctors, lawyers, and engineers we could be," he continued.

Tammy Appling-Cabading, a volunteer, also got a standing ovation after reading an uplifting poem she wrote specifically for the event entitled *Walk in Imani*.

"Twinkle, twinkle all you stars, do you ever wonder who you are? You are from the sons and daughters of the African diaspora lighting up the world ...," she began. "Speak truth, do justice, and walk in the way of righteousness."

Gregory Morris ended the evening with a moving speech about the importance of historical consciousness.

"History gives us a means to judge our actions by our cultural traditions. ...The way we treat the women in our lives doesn't match with historical reality," Morris told the crowd

"When we connect with the traditions of our forefathers we will build healthier relationships with ourselves, our family and all communities."

"This was the best Kwanzaa celebration that I've been to," said San Quentin resident Daron Charles.

"It was a culturally enriching experience that I will carry on for years. It was refreshing to hear accounts of Africans' contributions to history, an honor to present the fourth principle of Kwanzaa and to share the meanings with everyone," echoed fellow resident John Yahya Johnson.

Kwanzaa Principles and Readers

- Principle 1 - Umoja; read by Woodrow Riley.
- Principle 2 - Kujichagulia means self-determination read by Ronald Carter.
- Principle 3 - Ujima means Collective Work and Responsibility was read by Roosevelt Askari Johnson.
- Principle 4 - Ujama, means Cooperative Economics, read by Yahya Johnson.
- Principle 5 - means Purpose, read by Austin Thurman.
- Principle 6 - Kuumba means Creativity, read by Troy Dunmore.
- Principle 7 - Imani means Faith was read by Jamine Gurley.



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Dr. Appling-Cabading at Kwanzaa celebration



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Auntie June, Yoel Haile, Tammy Appling-Cabading, Arthur Jackson, and Allyssa Villanueva

N.W.A helped set the stage for modern hip hop music

By Marcus Henderson
Editor in Chief

N.W.A – Rap Group (1987-95)

The N.W.A rap group was at first criticized as a misogynistic hip hop crew that glorified drugs and crime. But the Compton-based rap group bought the political and social issues of California's Black youth to the mainstream and coined the term "gangsta rap."

Their explicit lyrics were occasionally offensive, but their music spot-lighted California's gang crisis, illegal drug trade and police abuses from a street perspective.

The group spawned hip hop icons, such as Easy-E, Ice Cube, Dr. Dre, MC Ren and many others. In 1988, the group released *Straight Outta Compton* with the highly controversial song *F@#k tha Police*, which brought attention to police brutality and racial profiling.

The song sparked howls of protest from law enforcement agencies. Some police agencies refused to provide security for the group's concerts. Milt Ahlerich, an assistant director of the FBI, sent a letter to Ruthless Records, the company co-founded by Easy-E through Priority Records, warning the rappers that "advocating violence and assault is wrong and we in the law enforcement community take exception to such action."

However, the FBI's letter only helped draw more publicity to the group. The letter has a place in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, according to *Wikipedia*.

Straight Outta Compton became one of the first albums to have the Parental Advisory label that read, "WARNING: Moderate impact coarse language and/or themes."

The group was banned from many mainstream radio stations. In spite of that, the album went double platinum and

the group has sold more than 10 million units in the United States alone.

The songs *Express Yourself* and *Gangsta Gangsta* were also big hits, portraying the anger and worldview of the inner-city youth.

But it was the group's first songs, *Boyz-n-the-Hood* and *8 Ball*, that explained to the world how the Black and Brown communities had to navigate California's 1980s gang culture. The song *Dopeman* captured the inner city drug epidemic and war on drugs, with lyrics like "You sold crack to my sister and now she sick."

Those songs were released in 1987 on *N.W.A and the Posse*—the group's first compilation album. The album reached number 39 on *Billboard Magazine's* Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart.

Easy-E is credited for assembling N.W.A and co-founded Ruthless Records, with Jerry Heller. N.W.A originally

consisted of Eazy-E, Dr. Dre and producer Arabian Prince. Ice Cube came later from the rap group C.I.A. and DJ Yella joined as well. Yella and Dre were both former members of the World Class Wreckin' Cru, a working group of DJs and producers. The two provided the high production values for Ruthless Records.

In 1991, the group's final studio album together, *Efil4zaggin* (Niggaz4Life spelled backwards), made its debut at number one on the Billboard 200 sales charts, becoming the first hardcore rap album to do so.

Soon afterward the group disbanded, due to financial disputes. Ice Cube filed a lawsuit against band manager Jerry Heller to gain a larger share of the profits for *Straight Outta Compton*, arguing that he (Ice Cube) had written most of the lyrics for the project. The case was settled out of court.

Ice Cube went solo and dropped *AmeriKKKa's Most Wanted* (1990) and *Death*

Certificate (1991), which featured the scathing diss record *No Vaseline*, a response to N.W.A's *100 Miles and Runnin*, a diss record towards Ice Cube. Both of Ice Cube's albums went certified platinum. His lyrics highlighted harsh socio-political commentary and storytelling and he was accused of being anti-White and anti-Semitic. It featured songs like *Black Korea* and *My Skin Is My Sin*.

Ice Cube transitioned into acting and business ventures. He starred in *Boyz n the Hood* (1991), and he wrote and starred in the Friday film series. Also, he was featured in *Barbershop*. He founded Lynch Mob Records and was part of the rap group Westside Connection. Currently, he has founded Big3, a three-on-three basketball league featuring retired NBA players.

Ice Cube's contributions pushed the boundaries of lyrical content for mainstream music and film. He still is listed among the best rappers of all time.

Dr. Dre also became a platinum-selling solo artist in his own right, releasing *The Chronic* (1992) album under Death Row Records and *Dr. Dre Presents the Aftermath* and 2001 in 1999 under his own record label. He is credited for popularizing the West Coast G-funk music era. (Michael Harris, co-founder of Death Row Records, is a former editor in chief of San Quentin News.)

Dr. Dre left Death Row Records and founded Aftermath Entertainment and Beats Electronics. He has produced albums for and overseen the careers of many rappers such as 2Pac, Eminem, The D.O.C.,

Snoop Dogg, 50 Cent, The Game, Kendrick Lamar and Anderson Paak.

He is regarded as one of the top music producers. He has won six Grammy awards, including Producer of the Year, non-classical. He is ranked number 56 on the "100 Greatest Artists of All Time" list by *Rolling Stone*. In 2018, he was ranked the third richest figure in hip hop, with a net worth of \$820 million.

Dr. Dre has also appeared in the films *Set It Off*, *The Wash* and *Training Day*.

Eazy-E was known as the "Godfather of Gangsta Rap." In 1995, he died from AIDS. However, he helped set the stage for rappers owning their own record labels. He built Ruthless Records, with acts such as N.W.A, Bone Thugs in Harmony, J.J. Fad and singer Michel'le.

MC Ren released several gold and platinum-selling albums, including *Kizz My Black Azz* and *Shock of the Hour*. Ren and Eazy-E resolved their estrangement shortly before Eazy-E's death in 1995 after two years of not talking to each other.

The other group members finally reconciled to do more music together in the later years.

In 2015, the N.W.A biopic *Straight Outta Compton* was released by Universal. The film grossed more than \$200 million worldwide and received positive reviews.

N.W.A ranks number 83 on the "100 Greatest Artists of All Time" list by *Rolling Stone*. In 2016, the group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Not bad for some kids out of Compton and South Central Los Angeles.



Photo from Wikipedia
Dr. Dre



Photo from Wikipedia
Ice Cube



Photo from Wikipedia
Easy-E



Arabian Prince, MC Ren, Ice Cube, Easy 'E', DJ Yella and Dr. Dre.

Photo from Wikipedia

History

Continued from Page 1

Pleasant also supported and gave shelter to fugitive slave Archy Lee, who was on the run from his slave owner.

Lee, a young Black man, brought to California from Mississippi by slave owner Charles Stovall, became a legal celebrity of his day. Lee escaped his slave master and waged a successful legal battle for his freedom that went all the way to the federal courts.

In the fall of 1857, Stovall, the slave master, arrived in Sacramento with Archy Lee and opened a school. Stovall hired Lee out as a laborer and pocketed his wages. California was technically a "free" state, but the law allowed visiting slaveholders to enter

with slaves so long as they did not settle permanently.

"Lee fled when he learned Stovall was planning to return to the South," reported the article. Lee hid at the Hackett House, a Sacramento hotel owned by two African American men who were local abolitionist leaders.

Lee was hunted down and Stovall had him arrested. The African American community rallied and held church fundraisers and collected thousands of dollars to pay for Lee's legal defense.

Edwin Crocker, the prominent civil rights lawyer, argued that Stovall had violated California's law because he had established residency and was not just passing through.

Stovall claimed Lee was "property," worth \$1,500, and insisted California authorities had to obey the federal fugitive slave law and return Lee to him. The judge ruled

against the slave master and in favor of Lee's freedom.

But the pro-slavery California Supreme Court overruled the decision. Lee was immediately re-arrested. Peter Burnett, one of the justices at the time, went on to become California's governor. The article said Burnett had on at least one occasion tried to ban Blacks from the state.

The court ruling said that although Stovall had broken the law, the Supreme Court justices were making an exception for him due to his inexperience and poor health. Lee was ordered sent back to Mississippi.

The court decision sparked widespread outrage. The Black community and their white anti-slavery allies went on high alert, because they expected slave master Stovall would try to smuggle Lee out of town by boat be-

fore an appeal could be filed. The anti-slavery group began patrolling the San Francisco harbor.

Stovall was in the process of sneaking Lee aboard a ship when the police arrested them both, according to the report. One of Lee's supporters had managed to get a court order from a sympathetic judge and stopped the kidnapping, just in time.

Lee was eventually set free when a federal judge overturned the California Supreme Court ruling to keep him enslaved. Lee went on to join an expedition of African Americans leaving California to resettle in British Columbia.

Pleasant's own wealth could not shield her from racism. In 1866, a conductor barred Pleasant from boarding a streetcar in San Francisco because she was Black. She sued and the case went

all the way to the California Supreme Court.

The court ruled that segregation on streetcars in California was illegal. However, the damages awarded Pleasant in a lower court were reversed by the Supreme Court.

Pleasant dedicated her entire life to fighting racism and supporting the advancement of Black people. Even as a young adult she had worked on the Underground Railroad, assisting enslaved people to escape the South.

"ARCHY."

TO THE FRIENDS

.....OF THE.....

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS.

THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE
Colored People having expended a large amount, and incurred heavy obligations in prosecuting and defending the case in the Courts of Sacramento, Stockton and San Francisco, and believing the principles to be vindicated are those which should interest all lovers of right and justice, independent of complexion, respectfully solicit contributions for this object, which will be faithfully appropriated, if left with

m20-3t E. J. JOHNSON, 184 Clay street.

Colonel Allen Allensworth, founder of a town in central California

By Marcus Henderson
Editor in Chief

After slavery African Americans took their skills and begin to build thriving cities. Blacks in California were no different.

In 1908, African Americans in California built a flourishing town called Allensworth, an accomplishment seldom taught or discussed. Colonel Allen Allensworth, founded the community in a rural area in Tulare County 30 miles north of Bakersfield.

The town served as a depot station on the Santa Fe Railroad line from Los Angeles to San Francisco. The soil was fertile and the water seemingly abundant, according to history.net.com.

Within a year, 35 families were residing in the town and by 1912 the population grew to 100. Alwortha Hall was the first baby born in the town. The settlement had two gen-

eral stores, a post office and comfortable homes. A school was built that also served as the center for the towns social and political activities. The public library held more than a 1,000 book.

Between 1912-1915 Allensworth generated nearly \$5,000 monthly from their business ventures. Their voting registration records listed an array of occupations from colonists, farmers, storekeepers, carpenters, nurses and more.

Allensworths grain warehouses, cattle pens and large poultry farms served the needs of the community and the railroad post. It had a 10-room hotel at 75 cents per night that included a restaurant. A cement manufacturing enterprise, plaster and carpentry shops. The town also produced sugar beets. These successes was a way to prove to the White establishment that Black people were capable of

self-determination and self-respect, said the article.

Allensworth became a member of the county school district and a voting precinct that elected Oscar Overr the first African-American justice of the peace in post-Mexican California.

The town consisted of 900 acres. It provided youth services such as: the Owl Club, the campfire Girls, the Girls Glee Club, and the Children's Saving Association. The Glee Club became internationally known singing at various little White towns throughout the nation.

Colonel Allensworth lobbied the California State Legislature for an educational institution for the town similar to Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Allensworth envisioned a training and technical school for black youths in California and the Southwest. The town was on

its way to becoming one of the greatest Black cities in the U.S. if not the world. But the school bill fail due to opposition from other Blacks in Los Angeles and San Francisco, who believed that

a Tuskegee-like institution would reinforce educational and residential segregation.

The town began to face several more crises that led to its eventual decline. The Santa Fe Railroad never sup-

ported the Black community through hiring for the rail line, according to the article. The company built another line to neighboring Alpaugh allowing most rail traffic to bypass Allensworth. The railroad company also refused to change the rail line name from Solito/Solita to Allensworth. These act deprived the town of the lucrative carrying trade.

The death of Colonel Allensworth sealed the fate of the town. In 1914, Colonel Allensworth was ran over by two White youths on a speeding motorcycle. He died the next morning. Without.

His spiritual guidance and leadership, the community disintegrated. By 1920, the lure of jobs in Oakland further decimated the town's population. But the colonel's dream did not die. In 1976, the state had acquired the land and the Department of Parks and Recreation developed a state historic site.

While Allensworth existed less than 20 years it provided an opportunity for Black men and women to transcend race-based limits and thus control their own destinies.

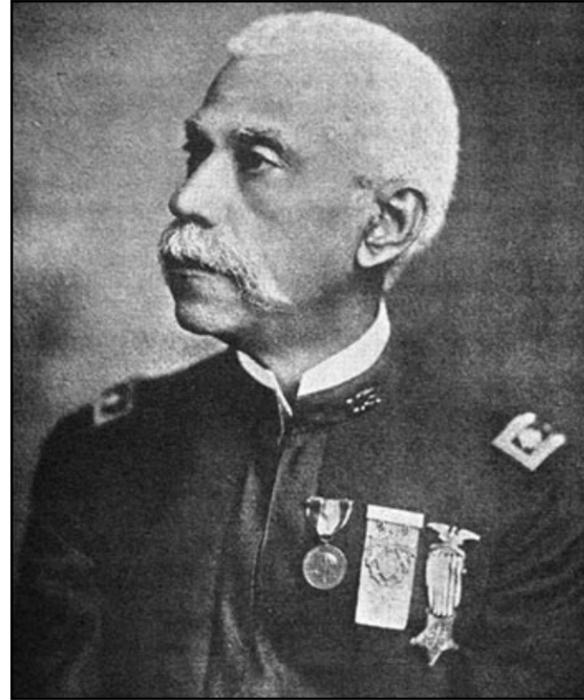


photo from Wikipedia

Colonel Allen Allensworth

Raise the Age Law help young accused avoid trial in adult courts

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

North Carolina's new Raise the Age law now prevents many non-violent youth offenders under the age of 18 from being mandatorily sent to adult court, according to news reports.

These new referrals to juvenile court will provide youths 16 and 17 more opportunities to receive rehabilitative services and counseling. It also gives them the chance for their records to remain confidential, reported *Tribune News Service, Richmond County Daily Journal and The Associated Press.*

"This is big change. Kids are different. Their brains are not fully developed," said Mecklenburg County Juvenile Court Judge Elizabeth Trosch. "This law gives young people the opportunity to, one, be held accountable for their wrong and, two, learn that they made a mistake without having life-changing consequences."

Before Raise the Age, when North Carolina juveniles were tried as adults, their charges became public record and could place a lifetime of restrictions

on their education, financial opportunities and careers.

This new rule will effect defendants, defense attorneys, judges, as well as defendants' families. It is expected to double the size of Mecklenburg County District juvenile court cases, according to the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's office.

**Kids are different.
Their brains
are not fully
developed,"**

"Defendants – as young as 13 – accused of murder and other serious violent crimes will still be tried as adults. Driving offense will also be excluded, as well as any teen who has an adult conviction before the change takes effect," the *Tribune News Services* noted.

"We were the last state" to make the change, said prosecutor Heather Taraska, head of Mecklenburg County District Attorney Juvenile Court team. "This is definitely the right thing for North Carolina."

The new law requires that Mecklenburg court and all court districts create a "justice partnership" with local school districts. This is not a new program and has been in place since 2015. The district attorney's office reports the program has cut school referrals to county courts by 60%, noted the reports.

Other major North Carolina law changes reported by *The Associated Press* include:

- Child Abuse: This new law extends the age that a person who suffered from sexual abuse can sue for civil damages. The age is extended from 21 to 28. It gives victims older than 28 a one – time window in which to file civil suits in the up-coming years 2020 and 2021.

- Death By Distribution (aimed to target opioid dealers) It modifies existing law that enables the prosecutor to severely punish the dealer, even if the dealer had no intentions to harm to the victim. It is punishable by seven years in prison.

- Sexual Assaults. Previously North Carolina women couldn't revoke sexual consent. The new law nullifies the 1979 court ruling.

Executive forms organization to help officials curb recidivism

By Alfred King
Journalism Guild Writer

A top Google executive has formed a non-profit organization to help prison officials understand which programs work and don't work to curb recidivism.

"In the criminal justice system today-an incredibly large and important and impactful system-we have none of those same abilities. It's millions of lives, billions of dollars, and we don't have a good sense of what's working or a good way to set goals and hit them," said Clementine Jacoby, who left her job as product manager for Google in June to work on criminal justice reform.

Jacoby cofounded Recidiviz in order to use data analytics to solve problems in the criminal justice arena.

"At Google, we had experimentation frameworks to determine which versions of a change would have the greatest impact, and when we rolled

out a change, we could predict what it should do and monitor if it actually hit that goal," said Jacoby in the *Fast Company* story.

A Bureau of Justice Statistics report in 2019 revealed that America had 2.2 million people in either jail or prison at the end of 2017, the article stated.

This number has been in decline over the last decade, but America still has more people incarcerated than any other country in the world does.

Recidiviz is now working with five states. "The people who are actually running criminal justice systems are already motivated to decarcerate for a whole variety of reasons-either their system may be overcrowded and they don't know exactly what the best strategies are to get a handle on that, or they're getting legislative pressure and advocacy pressure to downsize."

Some tech companies already work in this space, making money without reducing

the prison population. That is why Recidiviz decided to go non-profit, Jacoby said.

Recidiviz is the only non-profit at the tech accelerator Y Combinator and has plans to expand to more states, sharing the technology.

"Everything that we build is open-source. And so part of the theory of change is, can we get this technology out there, so that domain experts in the space can use this infrastructure to support states in doing data-driven decision making?" noted *Fast Company*.

The *Fast Company* article said that the data analysis also looks at how specific populations are helped by each program, so that programs can be better tailored. Ultimately, Jacoby said she hopes that reduced incarceration rates will allow money saved to go toward successful rehabilitation programs instead.

"You can actually start to shift the system from punitive to rehabilitative," Jacoby said.

Eleven years later - SQ CARES stands strong with cancer survivors

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Hundreds of San Quentin residents contributed \$5 each, while other prisoners produced art to raise more than \$8,000 for a local woman's center. The fundraiser was a part of the 11th Annual San Quentin CARES: Walk

for a Cure (SQ CARES) that occurred on Oct. 11 and 12.

"I am hugely honored and grateful that you've chosen Oakland Woman's Resource Center," said chairperson, Penni Hudis at the check presentation in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel. "It's a special place and has been around 33 years to serve all of Alameda and Contra Costa."

Curator B. Rousse of Cords Gallery conducted the art show.

"Let me paint the picture," said Rousse. "Tons of people come by Cords Gallery and when people learn that the art is made from people in San Quentin, in sup-

port of breast cancer, people are touched. It's a vehicle that allows you to contribute. I came for the walk and once I met you I found so much care immediately from you."

Rousse said that he's open for any kind of art, visual or written, "People are enthusiastic and want to hear from you."

The last art show raised more than \$1,000, and all of the money goes to the Oakland Woman's Resource Center, said SQ CARES volunteer Samantha Feld.

"I was overwhelmed by the stories and hard work of the men to support the broader community," Feld said. "My commitment deepened in 2015 when I lost my mom to breast cancer. This has been a special way for me to honor her and con-

nect with others to share loss and grief."

The original idea for a walk and fundraiser inside San Quentin occurred in 2009 after a prisoner watched the Avon Walk Against Breast Cancer on television.

"I brought it to Laura Bowman, who was Community Partnership Manager at that time. We wrote a letter to the warden who approved it—to date we raised about \$70,000," said Stephen Pascasio,

Kim Bailey, there from the beginning, said then Chief Medical Officer, Elena Tootell, was "full on board with the idea of raising money and having a two-day walk inside San Quentin."

Feld and San Quentin resident Edmond Richardson hosted the check presentation ceremony.

The presentation began with a rap performance by James Metters, Michael Kirkpatrick, Derry "Brotha-D" Brown, and Raiveon "Ray-Ray" Wooden.

"We can beat it this year – victory's here – SQ's got the plan," were lines that brought the audience to their feet with applause. "We are on a mission to defeat this disease – to all the loved ones who've passed away, we celebrate you on this day."

Volunteer Kim Bailey's mother and sister passed away from cancer within a few months of each other.

Bailey told the audience about bringing her mother to one of the SQ CARES walks, but she was only able to sit in a chair. Several men sat with her to talk, Bailey said.

"All she talked about was that experience for the rest of her life," Bailey said, which motivated her to get involved with SQ CARES.

The event ended with an invitation for those in the audience to come to the stage to share their personal experiences with cancer.

SQ Inside Committee Members: Stephen Pascasio, Tien Pham, Carlos Meza, John Levin, Alvin Timbol, Jim Kitlas, Son Nguyen, Edmond Richardson, Ronell Draper, Rafael Bankston, Terry Hall, Hieu Thai and Christopher Khalifah.
SQ Outside Committee Members: Shannon Gordhamer, Kim Bailey, Chris Bailey, Samantha Feld.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQJ
Steve Pascasio and Shannon Gordhamer

State to pay \$1.5 million to family of prisoner who committed suicide

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

California has agreed to pay \$1.5 million to the family of Erika Rocha, whose prison suicide was deemed foreseeable and preventable, the *Sacramento Bee* reports.

"This is an acknowledgment that the system completely broke down when it came to providing the care

that she needed," said Lori Ritkin, an attorney on the federal court lawsuit.

Court records indicate that Rocha had eight suicide attempts between age 7 and 14, according to the Aug. 18 article.

"The entire leadership team of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from the secretary all the way down to the

warden of this particular prison had known for decades that her mental health especially at California Institute for Women (CIW) at Corona, Calif., was below standard, and they chose not to address it," said Ritkin.

Erika's troubled youth stemmed from her mother not being in the home, and her father was incarcerated. She lived with various family

members and was moved into foster care due to sexual abuse by a family member.

At age 15 in 1996 she shot and wounded the woman that was running the group home where she lived.

She was sentenced to 19 years negotiated plea sentence for attempted murder. During her time in prison, she attempted suicide many times, the newspaper reported. Her suicide watch on March 31, 2016 lasted only one day, in lieu of the procedurally required five-day step-down, according to the Bee.

Prison mental health physicians diagnosed Rocha as having a number of mental health ailments including antisocial personality disorder, psychotic disorder, and major depressive disorder, according to the lawsuit.

Rocha's behavior seemed to escalate as she was reported punching a locker. Erika also refused to take her prescribed

medication and fought with her cellmate, according to the article.

"Mom on my way home when you pick me up, I want you to take me to a park, and I want you to push me in the swings and roll me in the grass"

In the opinion of Erika's mother, she didn't seem suicidal and was looking forward to coming home.

"When I saw Erika at one point and she was talking about coming home," said Linda Reza, her mother. "She told me, 'Mom on my way home when you pick me up,

I don't care where, but just somewhere along the way I want you to take me to a park, and I want you to push me in the swings and roll me in the grass,'" said Reza.

"By doing the settlement so early in the case, before we even went through discovery and for this much money, they know they failed my sister," said a sister, Geraldine Rocha. "It wasn't really about the \$1.5 million; that really doesn't do anything for us mentally or emotionally."

"The exact amount of the settlement is \$1,501,500, which includes \$1,500 the family wanted to pay for a swing set to be built in Las Flores Park in La Verne," said her stepmother, Linda Reza.

They would like a message engraved on a plaque at the swing that states, "In loving honor of Erika Rocha, Nov. 7, 1980, to April 14, 2016," according to the article.

California gun safety laws reported strongest in nation

By Alfred King
Journalism Guild Writer

California leads the nation when it comes to strongest gun safety laws and innovative programs to reduce gun violence, according to a *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange* article.

Giffords Law Center compiles an annual Gun Law Scorecard that ranks California at the top. A significant factor is the decline in overall gun deaths and homicides at the state level.

Nationwide gun homicides remain the leading cause of death for Blacks between the ages of 15 and 34, followed by Hispanics of the same age, the story reported.

Gun violence's greatest impact is on people of color, but all California residents pay the cost. Giffords Law Center estimates that \$6.5 billion is spent in costs associated with gun violence, including medical care, lost wages and the price of operating criminal justice agencies.

More than 50% of all gun violence in California occurs in 24 cities, prompting officials to try various solutions.

One such solution is called "Operation Ceasefire or "Focused Deterrence," which creates a partnership between the community and the police.

Oakland experienced a 52% reduction in fatal and non-fatal shootings between

2011 and 2017 credited to the program, according to an evaluation by Northwestern University.

According to the article, this strategy reshaped the Oakland Police Department's approach to policing. Police arrested 60% fewer people in 2017 than in 2019, while the number of solved homicides grew from 29% to 80% as of 2018.

Another partnership in Los Angeles with the Los Angeles Mayor's office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development, the Los Angeles Police Department and Urban Peace reduced gun violence in that city by 70% over the last 15 years, the story reported.

A partnership in Richmond implemented by the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) used cutting edge outreach and an intervention model.

That focuses on a small group of young men involved in the majority of shootings in Richmond, reducing gun violence by 66%.

California has increased funding for local community based organizations from \$9 million to \$30 million a year.

States are following California's lead. New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut all increasing the amount of money dedicated to these types of programs.

All three states have experienced reductions in violence and cost savings.

California's shift in major public policy is an effort to decrease mass incarcerations with the Public Safety Realignment and propositions 47 and 57, which resulted in the release of 40,000 people, though some were transferred to county jails.

The Vera Institute credits California's policy changes for the 40% of the national decline in prison populations, but efforts are already underway to reverse these reforms due to the perception among law enforcement and the public that the reforms have led to an increase in violent crime.

The article's author, Vaughn Crandall, co-director of the California Partnership for Safe Communities, writes that the twin policy goals of reducing prison populations and increasing public safety must be obtained before any conclusions can be made on the overall success of these new programs.

According to Crandall, changes in prosecutorial practices, sentencing laws and police arrest practices all play a part in large numbers of men of color who are not involved in serious crime being swept into the criminal justice system, with no public safety benefit. Community leaders must work together to spend the funds now available on programs that actually reduce violence and incarceration.

Newsom's stance on death penalty inspires abolitionist movement

By Kerry Rudd
Staff Writer

Governor Newsom's moratorium on the death penalty in March gave California's abolition movement new energy.

"There's this excitement and energy in our movement that we haven't had in a long time," said Natasha Minsker, a political consultant and longtime proponent for abolishing capital punishment.

"Grappling with the legacy of their two failed initiatives, advocates are re-assessing their strategy and retooling their message," said a recent SF Chronicle article. "The governor's moratorium has given advocates the op-

portunity to do long-term planning."

Newsom's moratorium provided temporary reprieves to more than 730 inmates who sit stationed on San Quentin's Death Row. The moratorium also removed California's recently revised lethal injection procedures.

Because the court had recently approved the state's new lethal injection protocol, Newsom was faced with the reality of overseeing the executions of more than 20 inmates who had exhausted their appeals. The governor said he was not willing to let that scenario happen.

Prior to Newsom's decision, no one had been executed in California since a fed-

eral judge ruled in 2006 that the state's methods resulted in potentially torturous and painful deaths to condemned prisoners.

Newsom's moratorium places California's capital punishment system back into a legal standstill.

Following Newsom's stand, the efforts of many activists have now been directed to the national stage, where the Trump administration is planning to resume capital punishment.

Three federal executions were scheduled for December before a judge temporarily blocked them. These would have been the first death sentences carried out by the U.S. Government in 16 years.

SF Mayor to close City Hall jail

By Dillon Kim
Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco Mayor London Breed ordered City Hall to close down the Hall of Justice, including its jail, by July 2021 because the jail is structurally vulnerable to earthquakes.

This deadline has prompted city officials to try to find alternatives to rehouse the 300 inmates that are currently housed there, according to the *San Francisco Examiner*. While it searches for a place for the inmates, the city is already relocating the other departments also located within the Hall of Justice.

Possible rehousing options for inmates include renovating the currently unused jail in nearby San Bruno and transferring the inmates to Alameda County's Santa Rita jail.

A member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Matt Haney said, "I do not support sending folks to Alameda County. I don't support building a new jail. I do support a plan for us to move forward and close this facility as soon as possible in an effective way."

Haney and other supervisors think that a better solution would be to find alterna-

tives to incarceration. Indeed, in 2015 the City of San Francisco made a commitment to seek alternatives to incarceration, establishing the Work Group to Re-envision the Jail Replacement Project. Matt Haney said,

"I don't support building a new jail. I do support a plan for us to move forward and close this facility as soon as possible in an effective way"

The MacArthur Foundation awarded \$2 million to District Attorney George Gascon's office to address racial disparities in jails and reducing the inmate population to 1,044 within two years. Alternatives to incarceration can save substantial money. It costs the city an average of \$250.11 per day to incarcerate an individual.

Mayor London Breed said if the inmate population doesn't

decline by the time of the jail closure, the inmates will be sent "to an alternative facility on a temporary basis."

Haney stated he was "concerned about a lack of a plan" regarding Mayor Breed's announcement. He continued, "Without having a plan, my fear is that the result of that is trying to back us into something that we should not be doing. The sheriff herself said that it would be horrible for us to send people over to Alameda County. Then why are we considering that? Why are we acting as though that is a viable option in any way?"

Haney apparently believes that Mayor Breed's "alternative facility" is the Alameda County Jail located across the bay in Alameda County.

Board members think the Santa Rita facility is a bad alternative in part because it further distances incarcerated individuals from their families and attorneys.

Sandra Fewer, the board's Chairperson of the Budget Committee, said she is "looking to identify strategies to further reduce the jail population" and is seeking alternatives "to avoid a scenario where we have to send any people to Santa Rita or jails out of the county."

After the release of more than 3,000 federal prisoners, the Justice Department is trying to recall their sentences and lock them back-up, according to a *Washington Post* article.

Trump, along with the Congress and the Senate, passed a bill back in 2018 signing-off on releasing those prisoners who had possessed minimum amounts of crack cocaine. They qualified for early parole under a new Bill called the First Step Act.

Attorney General Barr and the Justice Department are having second thoughts about the bill which would reduce and restrict severe sentences, even though Trump and those in the White House are applauding the bill so far.

"Department of Justice is pushing against the will of the people, the will of Congress," said Holly Harris, a conservative activist and leader of the Justice Action Network, who worked with Congress and the White House to pass the law.

Prior to the passing of this bill people were sentenced to the same amount of time as those who had larger amounts of powdered co-

caine. For years this disparity in sentencing has created arguments based on race.

The position of the Attorney General and the Justice Department on this bill is that it is letting out too many prisoners too fast and that by letting this many out, it could cause a backlash not only on them but also on Trump and White House staff, who helped author the bill.

"Department of Justice is pushing against the will of the people, the will of Congress and the will of the President,"

Trump and the White House staff do not see it like that. In April of this year the President held a celebration touting the bill's progress. He invited several recently released prisoners to the function. One of them was Gregory Allen, who spoke.

Allen stated that two months ago he was behind prison walls. "Now I am in the White House." He had been in prison since 2001 for selling cocaine.

Oversight report assessed CDCR's prison reform

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) produced its 10th independent oversight report after it evaluated prison reforms proposed by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). State law mandates that the OIG periodically assess the state's prison reforms.

The inspector general's 55-page Blueprint Monitoring, Tenth Report, scrutinizes reforms identified by the CDCR in its report titled "The Future of California Corrections." Some of its many goals are to improve the state's prison system, save taxpayers billions of dollars and end oversight by the federal court.

"The OIG sent staff to each of the department's 35 adult institutions," IG report said. "During which time they reviewed and reconciled departmental documents, interviewed staff, and observed departmental programs in operation."

Matched with its July 2018 report, "the OIG's review of rehabilitative programming found 92% of the academic education and 82% of the career technical education programs operating during our on-site visits," IG reported. "This was a 2% point increase in academic education courses that were in operation."

It was reported that there was no change in career technical education programs in operation.

In addition, the report noted, "The department is slowly transitioning its lower-level housing facilities (I and II) into Non-Designated Programming Facilities (NDPF), as inmates in these facilities are deemed "programming" inmates," the IG reported. "The focus of the NDPF is to offer an environment that provides greater rehabilitative opportunities for inmates demonstrating positive programming efforts." The NDPF's do not identify prisoners in them as being on a

sensitive needs yard or general population yard.

The CDCR continues to develop its plan to create two options for housing its prisoners as either "programming and non-programming sensitive needs yards (SNYS)," it was reported. It also continues to focus on the expansion of its NDPFs which are now at 33 of the 35 adult prisons.

The OIG noted that the CDCR continues to make changes to its population in sensitive needs yards (SNYS). It noted that SNYS are the fastest growing population in the prison system, with roughly 41,000 prisoners.

"These facilities (NDPFs) are designed to provide rehabilitative environments for offenders who have demonstrated positive programming efforts and a desire to refrain from violent behaviors," the OIG reported.

Also, in fiscal year 2018-19, there was a "slight decrease" throughout the CDCR rehabilitative programming model in areas allocated for

substance use disorder treatment. During this same period, however, there was an increase in the spaces for pre-employment transitions and cognitive-behavioral treatment.

In its summary, the OIG said the CDCR did not meet its goal of having 70% of prisoners in its population receive rehabilitative programming "consistent with their criminogenic needs prior to their release."

"The department demonstrated that only 52% of offenders in its target population met this objective during fiscal year 2015-16, the last fiscal year the department tracked this benchmark," the report said.

The inspector general concluded in its field work that 526 of the 572 academic positions in the CDCR were completely operational. That's a 92% rate of compliance which reflected 2% growth in academic programs, which included 35 added positions since the 2018 review of the Blueprint.

"Our review identified that the California Institution for Men had the highest number of vacant academic education positions...," the OIG reported.

"Our review of vacancy rates for academic education positions shows 23 of 35 prisons (66%) had a vacancy rate at 10% or below," the OIG reported. "Three prisons, California Institution for Men, High Desert State Prison, and California State Prison, Solano, had vacancy rates between 21 to 30%."

In its career technical education, the CDCR recognized 304 career technical education positions that it budgeted for fiscal year 2018-19.

"Upon completion of fieldwork, the report "found 249 of the 304 positions were filled and fully operational," An 82% rate of compliance. "Our review identified that California State Prison, Corcoran, had the highest percentage of career technical education programs not operational."

"The review of vacancy rates statewide for career technical education showed that 22 of 35 prisons (63%) had a vacancy rate over 10%," the OIG reported. "Two prisons had a vacancy rate exceeding 40%, California State Prison, Corcoran, and Valley State Prison."

The OIG report said the CDCR describes pre-employment programs as a means to provide prisoners with employment skills to prepare them for successful reentry and transition back to society. Its staff reviewed the CDCR records and conducted visits to facilities to evaluate the status of pre-employment programs.

"The OIG found that 1,479 of the planned 2,536 daily slots were fully operational," the report said, adding that it was a 58% rate of compliance. This was an increase of 8% in compliance since its 2018 Blueprint report.

The Blueprint also reported "4,669 of the planned 5,376 daily slots fully operational." This was an 87% rate of compliance which reflected a "4% increase in the ratio of occupied to available daily program slots since (its) 2018 report..."

The inspector general found the CDCR had expanded its long-term offender program (LTOP) to 30 of its 35 prisons. LTOP is voluntary and provides treatment to prisoners who've been sentenced to a life term in prison, with the possibility of parole. These prisoners must appear before the Board of Parole Hearings to be found suitable for release.

The OIG noted the CDCR was under a court order to reduce overcrowding by reducing its prison population to 137.5% of design capacity, and that the department had met the court-ordered benchmark.

"The department's update noted that the court reaffirmed that the department would remain under the jurisdiction of the court for as long as necessary to

continue compliance with this benchmark," the OIG reported.

"As of May 8, 2019, departmental figures show an in-state prison population of 114,471 inmates housed in the state's 34 adult institutions, 16 with a design capacity of 85,083, equaling 134.5% of design capacity," the OIG reported.

The OIG also continues to monitor the CDCR's implementation of Proposition 57, the class action lawsuit *Ashker v. Brown*, the Step Down Program, Security Threat Groups and other legal actions.

The inspector general report concluded, in part, that the CDCR "has shown recent improvements in meeting the Blueprint goals regarding filling academic education positions, resulting in a vacancy rate of 8%." The report did say, however, that "standardized staffing for career technical education positions remains problematic, with a relatively high vacancy rate of 18%."

The Office of the Inspector General recommended the CDCR take the following steps to meet its staffing level goals for rehabilitative programming:

- Promptly advertise and recruit for all statewide vacant academic and career technical education teacher positions
- Prioritize its recruitment and filling of both the longest running (over one year, over six months, etc.) and the highest number of teacher vacancies.
- Establish an experienced worker program to identify a pool of experienced former teachers, who would be willing to come back to work as retired annuitants.
- Require monthly updates from each supervisor of correctional education programs (principal) of courses that are not operational for which a teacher is assigned, but unable to provide instruction.



Mr. Freeman teaching an English class in prison

File photo

Gavin Newsom will introduce a broader criminal justice reform

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Gov. Gavin Newsom will introduce a broader criminal justice reform package as part of his 2020 prison budget plan.

His plans include step down facilities that focus on rehabilitation and reentry options for people being released from custody. He ultimately wants to shut down one of the state's 35 prisons, according to an article in the *Sacramento Bee*.

Governor Newsom's plans are to give the state more power to oversee local sheriffs and lock up facilities. This is possibly due to California's surge in homicides in some of its largest jails. He has sighted that inmates are held in inhumane suicide watch conditions monitored by local sheriffs, who rebuff state inspectors, according to the article.

"I'm generally not satisfied with oversight, period. Across the board," Newsom said on the state's supervision of the 70,000 inmates housed in county jails. "There's not a lot of accountability and oversight in terms of these issues and county jails."

Governor Newsom's administration is studying what changes could be made, but offered no specifics as to what changes will be made as of yet. Governor Newsom's spokesperson said the governor will announce what changes will be made in January when he reveals his state budget.

There was a yearlong investigation by *McClatchy* and *ProPublica*, which exposed that county jails have struggled with the influx of inmates serving longer sentences after the 2011 series of reforms that included a measure that shifted inmates from the state prison system to serving their sentences in local county jails. This was due to the state declaring that California prisons are unconstitutionally overcrowded, according to the article.

"I'm generally not satisfied with oversight, period. Across the board,"

California lawmakers created the California Board of State and Community Corrections to oversee the burden of realignment. Their role was to increase funding for facility construction. The news agencies found the committee "toothless," according to the article. Some of the reasoning was that the committee did not monitor jail deaths.

"State corrections officials do not have the authority to make county leaders change, and they generally see themselves as partners, not regulators," said Allison Ganter, deputy director overseeing the inspection team,

When the homicide rate soared in these facilities, the

committee could not force counties to construct new or safer facilities. This was even after billions of dollars had been awarded in state financing to replace decrepit facilities.

Fresno County jail has experienced 47 deaths since the realignment program was instituted. This is twice the number of people who had died in the several years prior to realignment.

A bill has been introduced by Assembly member Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento. This bill would allow counties to create oversight groups with the power to subpoena county sheriffs but was shelved after opposition from local law enforcement. McCarty has vowed to re-submit another version of the bill next year.

The state corrections board cited Kern County's jail due to suicidal inmates being locked in closet-sized rooms with nothing but a grate in the floor. These inmates were given a rip resistant yoga mat to sleep on. After incidents the jail switched to giving the suicide watch inmates blankets, according to the *Sacramento Bee* article.

McCarty said this is yet another example of mental health abuses, negligence and lack of proper oversight by a county sheriff's department.

"This type of lax oversight results in lawsuits and settlements where taxpayers continue to foot the bill and pay for the misconduct of our sheriff's departments across California."

California has made major changes to comply with court orders

By Alfred King
Journalism Guild Writer

California has made major changes to comply with court orders to reduce overcrowding and improve medical care in the 35 state prisons, an update report says.

Changes in rules and regulations have resulted in the state's prison population measured at 134.8% of design capacity as of Nov. 13, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reported.

This is the 68th report since a judge ordered the prison reduction to 137.5% of design capacity.

CDCR reported it has been in full compliance with the reduction order for four years, according to the report issued Dec. 16.

Changes include:

1. In the wake of Proposition 57, passed by voters in November 2016, expanded credit earning opportunities were adopted for incarcerated persons.

2. Credit earning opportunities were expanded for prisoners who achieve a high school diploma or its equivalent and/or who complete 52

hours of programming under the Rehabilitative Achievement Credit program. It went into effect on Jan. 9.

3. The office of Administrative Law approved emergency regulations for the non-violent offender parole process to distinguish between determinately sentenced offenders and implement a parole consideration process for indeterminately sentenced, non-violent offenders. It became policy on Jan. 1, 2019.

4. A court decision on July 9, changed CDCR policy so that the previously mandated public safety screening process to be eligible, no longer applies. All are eligible both determinately and indeterminately sentenced. Both groups will be referred to the Board of Parole Hearings for considerations, regardless of their in-prison behavior.

5. CDCR continues to implement other measures to maintain compliance, contracting for additional in-state capacity in county jails, community correctional facilities, private prisons and eliminate of out-of-state beds.

6. A parole process was adopted for medically incapacitated persons, and an elderly parole program for prisoners age 60 or older, who have served at least 25 years of incarceration.

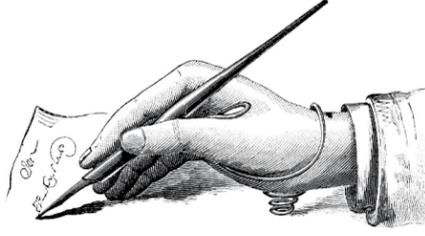
7. Contracts are in place with the counties of San Diego, Los Angeles, Butte and Kern to place eligible incarcerated persons in re-entry programs.

8. California has expanded alternative custody programs for females that provide prisoners with a wide range of rehabilitative services to assist with alcohol and drug recovery, employment and social support, education and family re-unification.

Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Programs (CTRP) are housed at facilities located in San Diego, Santa Fe Springs, Bakersfield, Stockton and Sacramento, noted the report.

As of Nov. 13, 340 female prisoners are participating in the CTRP programs. The 2019-2020 budget allocates \$7.5 million for reentry facilities and will fund two new facilities in Los Angeles for 60 females prisoners.

LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK: *Letters to the editor*



I got to CIM level one minimum yard Feb 22, 2019 and have yet to see any of the things that they told me about. At this place it still seems to be about punishment and not rehab like it says in the title of CDCR. There is so much division here amongst staff, inmates, free staff, it is very discouraging. We were promised microwaves and here at CIM the other two yards has gotten theirs and we have yet to receive ours or a reason as to the delay.

Some yards are still being stand offish towards the LGBTQ community. They refuse to let them be housed in the West dorm setting, which is a single cell unit. South dorm allows them to house there where I am currently housed and there have been no problems between them and the rest of the inmates in here.

No one can stop all the things that go on in a prison setting. Violence, drugs, removals, it's going to happen because there is nothing new under the sun. What's done has been done and it will continue to be done. Each of us is created for a purpose, some for honor some for dishonor. So in order for things to stop, the good Lord would have to create robots with no free will. And according to the Word, that's not something he is going to do. Or whoever your higher power is because if he/she was going to do it, it would've been done long ago.

I have spent the last 10 plus years working my way down this prison system. You would think the lower you go the better it would be, but no. It gets worse. Some of us have made mistakes whether it's the first or however many it's been. To be on this low yard most of us have learned a lesson and just want to go home. I know I am. Lord willing I'll be home soon, but I will still try and fight for the rights and the equality for all inmates no matter who they are or what they done. I'm not the judge God is.

Sincerely,
J. Arnold
California Institute for Men

Jonas Koel - Outside Reader

Hello San Quentin News,

Just want to say that you are doing a really good job and San Quentin News is one of the few newspapers that I read regularly. The difference between San Quentin News and other media is that it is genuine and credible, which in this context means everything.

I am from Sweden myself, live in Denmark and I look forward to more good articles and hope you all have a good day,

Best Regards Jonas

To San Quentin News,

I write to you because there is a problem that many inmates are having with the interpretation of SB136, the new law that removes the 1-year prison prior enhancement. The counselors are telling us that they know nothing about it. The case records departments are saying that it is up to the inmate to petition the court, and the courts are saying that it is up to the prison admin to recalculate your time. On top of that some people are saying that SB136 isn't retroactive so people already sentenced don't qualify. But even if that's true SB136 clearly states and I quote, "SB136 removes the 1-year sentence enhancement that is applied to current sentences." Please can you bring some clarity to this very important issue?

Your loyal reader,
S. Chase
California Rehabilitation Center Norco

To SQ News,

Since the Row @ CCWF was able to receive SQ News monthly about 3 years ago I was faithfully collected as much as any issues other rowers had done, so I can send them to my pen pals in other states, including England and Germany. I've taken the task as a privilege to spreading the good info to people in free world.

Tanya Nelson
Central California Women's Facility
Chowchilla

Nuff Blessing 'n Guidance My Youths!

Realistically I'm a 39 year old Fella from New York City born and raised!

I'm of West Indian descent; My parents are natives of the islands called "Trinidad & Tobago". True in deed it dawned upon me to holla at you because fact is Life is a Test & I'm speaking from the perspective of been there * done that from all the crap you seen on TV or heard in songs bottom line. Be Smart & Think Twice cuz drugs, gangs, guns & crime is not fun!

I'm also a survivor of the 9/11 event & the recent Vegas shoot out! The best I can do is instill my advice & philosophy as a Role model that changed from that lifestyle. I'm now focused on my purpose in life. To be real & up-front Drugs will make you do things you'll regret. It plays tricks with your mind. Stay away from it all—No Tobacco, No Vape, No Alcohol, No Cocaine, No Crystal Meth, No Heroin, Look up the word tobacco it is a poisonous substance. Also, alcohol is poison.

Enjoy your life & health take vitamins, listen to mom & dad. That's gangster you heard-getting a job, paying off on a house and going to college.

Kari Anthony Hunkar
I get released January 2020, I'll be okay this time cuz I'm a new person. In the past I've done 20 years...it's a long story, you just pray & think positive!

CDCR and CCHCS Unveil Expanded Priorities Through Renewed Mission and Vision Statements

SACRAMENTO — The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) have unveiled expanded mission and vision statements meant to reflect the joint priorities of creating a prison environment that provides the incarcerated population with the tools necessary to be drug-free, healthy, and employable members of society upon their release.

The expanded priorities in the new mission and vision statements focus on enhancing public safety by providing treatment, rehabilitative, and restorative justice programs to our population, in a safe and humane environment. The new vision and mission statements result from legislation in 2016 (AB 2590) that added restorative justice to the purpose of imprisonment, along with punishment and rehabilitation, and directed CDCR to update its mission statement accordingly.

"We are envisioning new ways of fulfilling our mission of public safety that align with our ideals and values for 2020," said Ralph Diaz, CDCR Secretary, and J. Clark Kelso, CCHCS Receiver, in a joint statement. "Most of California's incarcerated individuals will one day return to their community. When we address the roots of criminality through addiction treatment, mental health care, and education, combined with reentry services in the community, we are helping to make California safer and more productive."

Vision

We enhance public safety and promote successful community reintegration through education, treatment and active participation in rehabilitative and restorative justice programs.

Mission

To facilitate the successful reintegration of the individuals in our care back to their communities equipped with the tools to be drug-free, healthy, and employable members of society by providing education, treatment, rehabilitative, and restorative justice programs, all in a safe and humane environment.

Some highlighted examples of how CDCR and CCHCS are fulfilling their new missions:

Expanding substance use treatment: In 2020, CDCR and CCHCS will roll out an enhanced Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment program, which uses a scientifically based treatment approach to battle the chronic illness of addiction. This program will offer participants medicated assisted treatment, comprehensive cognitive behavioral interventions and safe, therapeutic housing. This initiative will focus on whole-person treatment from incarceration through return to the community.

Addressing criminality: CDCR has increased capacity in Cognitive Behavioral Intervention programs focused on criminal thinking, anger management, family relationships, and victim impact by almost 300 percent over the last five years.

Career training: The department has more than doubled the capacity of Career Technical Education opportunities, providing our population with real-world job skills. The new "Microhome" initiatives at Correctional Training Facility in Soledad and Folsom State Prison in Sacramento provide in-demand job training to help inmates succeed when they return to society.

College education: CDCR offers face-to-face community college programming in 34 prisons, with more opportunities growing every day. When California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi offered only distance learning college courses, it averaged 200 to 250 participants a year. When the prison introduced face-to-face courses, in partnership with Cerro Coso Community College in 2017, enrollment in those classes jumped to 740 with an additional 200 enrolled in distance learning courses. Providing face-to-face instruction at Kern Valley State Prison, offered through Bakersfield College, increased the number of students from 30 to 498.

Restorative justice: In 2019, CDCR awarded grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to implement victim impact programs in California prisons. These programs will share a common goal of giving victims the opportunity for their voices to be heard and for incarcerated men and women to fully understand the consequences of their actions.

Reentry: Since 2014-2015, CDCR has increased its Transitions reentry program capacity from 2,430 to 20,734, a more than 753 percent increase. Transitions is a five-week program provided near the end of an inmate's incarceration to focus on their community reentry needs; such as, financial literacy, job search skills, and provides community resources. This increase aligns with our priority of facilitating the successful reintegration of individuals in our care back to their communities.

Community partnerships: We continue to expand our relationships with community partners throughout California, including an historic undertaking to open the first-ever firefighter training program for recently-paroled firefighters. Through a partnership with CAL FIRE, California Conservation Corps and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, the Ventura Training Center provides advanced industry training and reentry services aimed at helping those who served as incarcerated firefighters find success in the fire service field.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: (916) 445-4950

Affected California Inmates Hope to Challenge Their Restitution Obligations

California inmates have privately expressed hope in reducing or possibly eliminating their restitution obligations in the wake of *Timbs v. Indiana* (Timbs), 2019 US LEXIS 1350,203 L. Ed. 2d 11, the United States Supreme Court decision that found the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution applies to the states under the Fourteenth Amendment's Due process clause.

In *Timbs*, a defendant pled guilty drug and theft offenses. Based on these criminal convictions, the State of Indiana initiated a civil suit under its civil forfeiture laws to seize Defendant's Land Rover ("vehicle") since it was used to transport drugs. Since the vehicle's value (\$42,000) exceeded the maximum fine allowed under the applicable penal statutes (\$10,000) defendant pled guilty to, the trial court and Court of Appeals found that the forfeiture of the vehicle would be "grossly disproportionate to the gravity" of the defendant's offense and thus, would be unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment.

However, the Indiana Supreme Court, without deciding whether the fine was excessive, held that the Excessive Fines Clause only applies to the federal government and does not apply to the fines imposed by a state.

In reversing the Indiana Supreme Court, the Timbs court held that the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution applies to the states under the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process clause and remanded the case back to the Indiana courts for further proceedings not inconsistent with its holding.

In California, recent California appellate decisions have come to conflicting decisions on whether a defendant must object to the restitution amount at his or her sentencing. For example, in *People v. Frandsen* (2019), 33 Cal.App. 5th 1126 the Second Appellate District, Division Eight, found the restitution challenge forfeited on appeal because the defendant did not object to the restitution fine at sentencing. But in *People v. Jones* (2019) 36 Cal.App.5th 1028, the Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, found the restitution challenge not forfeited on appeal, even if the defendant did not object to the restitution fine at sentencing. Clearly, many restitution issues will need to be decided by the California Supreme Court and California Appellate courts to provide guidance to trial courts and the legal bar.

If inmates believe that their restitution amounts may violate the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment, an inmate may obtain relief by exhausting their administrative remedies through the CDCR 602 process and, if the issue is not resolved at Third Level Appeal stage, then filing a petition for a writ of habeas corpus with the appropriate court may be necessary.

R. V. Morales

California Men's Colony

Film producer and social justice activist Scott Budnick visits San Quentin

KidCAT Speaks!

By Joe Garcia
Journalism Guild
Chairperson

Film producer and social justice activist Scott Budnick kicked it with youth offenders and spoke to KidCAT members about his efforts to put the human face on America's broken criminal justice system.

"This is my favorite group in the whole state," said the famed producer of *The Hangover* and the recently released *Just Mercy*. "It's good to be back here."

Budnick slid into San Quentin for a couple of hours Dec. 12 before heading to Folsom State Prison, where the Sacramento Kings were set to christen a renovated basketball court for Play For Justice.

"I've been coming to KidCAT for years," Budnick said as he looked around at about 30 prisoners in SQ Education's B-Building. "I literally don't recognize anyone—only a couple of faces."

"It's nuts. Everyone in KidCAT's going home."

Budnick came that day with longtime SQ volunteer Ayoola Mitchell to speak with and meet youth offenders who may have heard of him but have never seen him face-to-face.

New KidCAT member Raphael Bravo, 28, introduced Budnick to the room.

"People say, 'Who the hell is Scott?' Well, I've known him since I was 16," said Bravo. "If anyone in the world believed in me, it's this man right here."

"He appeared one day when I was in YA [Youth Authority]. 'Are you Raphael? Your cousin told me to come find you.'"

Bravo told everyone how Budnick eventually got him a job on a movie set.

"He offered me the best of opportunities I could possibly have," said Bravo. "But I wasn't right."

Bravo ended up committing second degree murder and being sentenced to 16-years-to-life.

"While we're incarcerated, this is the time to get right with ourselves right now," said Bravo. "We have to be there for each other and lift each other up."

Budnick then explained to the guys about his experiences seeing the inequities of the criminal justice system firsthand.

"When I was working on *Old School*, a friend of mine took me with him to Juvenile Hall. We volunteered for Inside Out Writers, working with a group of 10 kids—all facing life sentences."

Budnick recalled asking one of the young men how their week had been. "It was

a bad week,' the kid told me. He said he'd just got sentenced to 300-years-to-life. 'They stacked everything—I got washed.'

"And, this kid looked like he was 11. I thought, 'Oh, they'll have a good time with him in prison. This is awful.'"

That was one moment Budnick says changed his perspective, changed his life. "How do I live in a country that would do this to a child?"

"I could not comprehend in my mind how we, as a country, think this is okay. Our system's so incredibly racist and unfair. There's like no White kids in Juvenile Hall."

Budnick related it to his own children. "My kid would get bailed out, have the best attorney money can buy and get a deal no one could have gotten."

"If you have money, you're not going to get washed. I couldn't just teach a writing class and feel like I'm giving back."

Budnick went on to found the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) in 2013, an organization committed to offering guidance and help to the incarcerated and recently released, as well as advocating fiercely to affect policy change.

"Getting laws passed, we're 4 for 4 so far, with Governor Newsom," Budnick said. "And, I think we

were like 13 for 13 with Governor Brown.

"Our policy work through ARC, that's all done by you guys—because you guys are up there on Capitol Hill telling your stories."

Budnick talked about how the lessons he's learned as a filmmaker tie into affecting social change.

"Conflict, struggle, a happy ending—that's what makes a great story, a great film," he said. "And you guys have some of the most powerful stories on earth."

"No matter who I bring into prison, everyone changes when they meet you guys and see you as human beings."

According to Budnick, it's all about being able to humanize the incarcerated through storytelling.

"There's such a beautiful light inside all of you," he said. "That's the lesson. Talking about you guys as human beings got voters to say 'Yes.'"

"The criminal justice system's all about scare tactics. Think about that—we just need to make sure juries aren't scared, right?"

Budnick is intent on using his Hollywood platform and success to illuminate the human faces stuck behind the walls of mass incarceration.

With Black Panther and Creed star Michael B. Jordan, Budnick produced *Just Mercy*, the film version of Bryan Stevenson's nonfiction account of freeing Walter McMillian, a wrongfully convicted prisoner on Alabama's Death Row.

McMillian spent years on Death Row due to a conviction based solely on the testimony of a jailhouse informant. And although his jury sentenced him to life, the trial judge intervened and ordered a death sentence.

Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) to fight for people like McMillian.

"The entire movie is about humanizing all the people on Death Row," said Budnick. "There's a pretty graphic execution scene in there, where we show it all."

"By the time the audience gets to that point in the film, we know the guy's guilty—but they all cry when he's put to death."

In conjunction with *Just Mercy*'s January release dates, Budnick explained how he and Warner Bros. partnered to launch Represent Justice, "the largest political social impact campaign for a movie—ever."

"We're using our social media to send people to



Photo by FirstWatch

Film producer Scott Budnick

websites on criminal justice reform," he said. "They'll be able to see Juvenile Hall information where they can go volunteer."

"We want to try and immediately activate people—engage them to get involved."

Budnick also expressed his excitement for Play For Justice, where the Sacramento Kings, Milwaukee Bucks and other NBA partners are visiting prisons to interact with incarcerated communities, bringing them basketball—and hope.

"I'm driving from here straight to Folsom," he told the SQ guys. "Some people might think basketball fans don't know anything about criminal justice—we're going to change all that."

Ayoola Mitchell spoke about how she first crossed paths with Budnick. "I met Scott four years ago, when we both were speaking before the Legislature in Sacramento."

"It really struck me, because, you know, I was dressed all in my adult clothes," said Mitchell. "But him—I swear he had flip flops on and was there to address public officials just like I was."

"Something Scott said that day really resonated with me. He said, 'I just don't give a f-k.' Me, as a Black woman—how I look matters. When I go in there, I know I'll be judged."

Budnick chuckled slightly. "Everyone already sees me as 'the *Hangover* guy,' so I can get away with it."

Mitchell continued. "A few years later, I was visiting the ARC offices in Los Angeles. It's all about that six degrees of separation—the way people's lives intersect."

"There was a guy who'd gotten out and was working for Scott, a guy I'd known

since he was 16 in Juvenile Hall," she said. "He told me he was going to the Oscars that year."

"I'm like, 'I've never been to the Oscars. What about me?'"

Mitchell's career in criminal justice reform spans more than 38 years, and running. "I've been fighting for y'all before some of you were even born," she said. "So much needs to be done out there."

"I have such a heart for you guys."

Budnick asked Mitchell what organizations she works for. "It's just me—Ayoola. No non-profit. No organization," she said. "I've always believed in redemption."

"I'm old as Hell, but I can't retire until all y'all are free."

Budnick commended Mitchell for her continued effort and passion, particularly since she does it mostly on her own without all the fund-raising and support networks he has access to.

"It's easy for me to do this work," he said.

Some of the SQ guys had questions about what kind of reentry support ARC provides once they're released.

"We got you," said Budnick. "You'll have a very stable place to live and people around you who care. If that keeps you up at night or gives you pause, don't worry about it."

A big question was about getting Budnick involved in spreading KidCAT's First Step curriculum to other facilities.

"The model that was started here—that should be at High Desert, at these hopeless places," he said. "There's what, like 35 prisons in California?"

"Your program should be available at all of them—anywhere there's youth offenders looking for hope."

Dear KidCAT Speaks

There are many times that I look back over my life and shake my head, not only because of the traumatic experiences, but also because of my warped way of thinking. I've been through a lot in my life, but I still understood right from wrong.

Because of the abuse I suffered, I knew what the consequences would be if I did wrong. Therefore, I learned to be "slick." I did my best to master the concept of "the right way to do the wrong thing." I never wanted to experience the humiliation of jail, so when I did wrong, I would talk others into doing the brunt of the dirt. We can all see how that turned out.

I thought I was doing most of what I did to survive, but in the end I only further entangled myself with drugs, alcohol, the gang life and, believe it or not, depression. The gang life never really meant that much to me, but weed, alcohol and pills gave me meaning. They became my way out, my source of escapism. If I couldn't leave the world permanently, I could mentally.

Something too I soon realized was that if I volunteered to do enough stuff, people thought I was down. This caused them to want me around. Instead of letting others do all the work, I started to put myself on the "front line." I finally felt needed, and these people became my loved ones. I only have myself to blame for my misplaced loyalty and insecurities.

Today, I stand as a man who has gained a great deal of insight. After tapping into my spiritual self through embracing Islam, I began to change my thought patterns. I started to understand my behavior for what it was—immoral and abnormal. No matter what my environment presented me with, there were always better decisions to be made than the ones I chose. As I changed, I got into college and began to do self-help groups.

Getting into ARC (Anti-Recidivism Coalition) has sped my change along. Seeing brothers who were in my same predicament get out, stay out, and then come back to assist us, has opened my eyes to hope. I've seen with my own eyes what change and "putting in the work" can do.

I'm not just doing this to get out but to be the man that society, my family, friends, children and I, myself, deserve.

John F. K. Dozier Jr.
Calipatria State Prison

Dear John,

KidCAT really appreciates you sharing your life experience. It's important for all of us to connect through storytelling so that we can learn from one another.

You are well on your way to figuring yourself out. It's an ongoing process—a lifelong journey toward self-awareness. Your spirituality has definitely contributed to your success. Always be on the lookout for the people around you who can benefit from your progress and insight. None of us live in a bubble. We need to be there for each other.

Whether you realize it or not, you are part of our whole community, and we need you to continue stepping up and being there to support others. It'd be great for you to someday become an ARC guy and come back inside prisons to help, wouldn't it?

Any inmates interested in receiving the KidCAT curriculum must ask the Community Partnership Manager (CPM) at their facility to contact the CPM at San Quentin. As of February, 2019, KidCAT's curriculum can only be distributed to prisoners through their CPM.

The Beat Within

A Publication of Writing and Art from the Inside



KidCAT and *The Beat Within* hold monthly writing workshops. *The Beat Within* conducts writing workshops in juvenile detention centers throughout the country. KidCAT Speaks will publish one topic each month. Your writing should reflect a positive message that helps the youth make a better decision in life. Your stories will be read by the youth in detention centers. If published, you will receive a free copy of the publication. Your story can make a difference. Tell *The Beat Within* you read about them in KidCAT Speaks!

Picking sides - There are times when all of us are asked to pick sides. Sometimes, it's as innocent as a basketball game. But often, you're asked to choose sides in ways that have important consequences. When the neighborhood calls, but your mom/grandma tells you stay home, you have to pick a side. When those who have your back tell you not to smoke or drink, but your friends tell you to do it anyway, you have to pick sides. Have you chosen sides that you later wished you had not chosen, or you are glad you chose? Can you share a time with us when you had to pick a side, whether you wanted to or not? Tell us what your choices were, and why you picked the side you did. Looking back, was it the right choice? Why or why not?

The Beat Within
P.O. Box 34310
San Francisco, CA 94134

KidCAT (Creating Awareness Together) was founded by a group of men who committed their crimes in their teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group's mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. KidCAT Speaks wants to hear from all offenders, educators, and policymakers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation. Contact us at San Quentin News, Attn: KidCAT Speaks, 1 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94964.

Christmas Carols in San Quentin

By **Anthony Manuel Carvalho**
Staff Writer

San Quentin's Chaplain Mardi Ralph Jackson and dozens of supporters performed live on Dec. 21 at the prison's 28th Christmas Caroling event. The Chaplain said it was a time of adoration and worship for our Lord's birth.

Elder Derrick Holloway stated that in a normal year "Mother" Jackson allows more than 90 churches to assist in the spiritual growth of her ministry. Volunteers assist year round—not just at holidays—and are greatly appreciated.

"Through outside leadership in Protestant churches throughout the Bay Area we learn more about evangelical sermons, gospel singing and Bible studies. Churches located as far away as Texas help "Mother" Jackson prepare her men for the spiritual warfare we encounter when we go home," said incarcerated Elder Derrick Holloway.

The evening started with rehearsal after a prayer from Chaplain Jackson. The group was led by Chester Hall from Cornerstone Church in Livermore.

Hall has been in charge of the caroling event the last five years.

"I have been participating since 1988, and through Garden Chapel we consider ourselves all blessed to give hope and comfort to men that cannot be with their families," said the director of the evening's choir.

Before the choir walked around the cell blocks, SQ News Advisor John Eagan gave insight as to what the night meant. Eagan has performed in the event as a member of the Tiburon Baptist Church. He has been doing so for 28 years.

He asks the incarcerated men one question. "I always ask, when did someone say they are proud of you? Invariably the answer is never," said Eagan.

Kaylyn Hipple, wife of Minister George Hipple, has

been caroling at the event for 20 years. She remembered the original organizer, Sam Huron of Man-to-Man Ministries.

"Death Row should believe in God, and we hope they will be able to hear the choir from the rotunda, as we are not allowed inside. No matter what, it's a blessing, a true highlight of our Christmas. Easily our biggest event of the year," said Mrs. Hipple.

Before the group began its tour of the prison, one of the Bay Area's leading gospel singers, Paula Bates, shared the mission of the night. "Hopefully we can plant a seed in men who do not yet believe, and they may ask, what must I do to be saved?"

Her operatic voice enables others to hear the miracles from the group. "It's truly a blessing to share the Christmas Spirit and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ...It is all about Jesus," said Ms. Bates.

Another leader in vocals, Jessica from First Church in Livermore, added, "The blessing to be with others who believe and who are

God's people—while showing unconditional love for those in need—is the real miracle."

The choir left Garden Chapel and circled outside the pavilion that is in the center of the Captain's Porch, the main entrance, four post and the AC Center to begin their performance.

Lt. Sam Robinson and some of his staff escorted the performers around the prison. "This is an annual event I take in before I enjoy my Christmas. This choir changes men's hearts," said the lieutenant.

The group headed to North Block where Pastor Linda Lopes from Valley Christian Church said, "This breaks my heart. As a mother and grandmother, I believe men should not have to live like this...but Jesus loves."

At North Block, men stopped watching the Forty-Niners' victory over the Rams to enjoy Christmas songs like "Silent Night," "Joy to the World" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

"It's amazing, bitter calls turned into a spiritual silence I have never observed,"

said incarcerated person Kevin Kelly. The choir left the first tier to cheers by the incarcerated.

Similar songs on the yard side of North Block, at the rotunda of Death Row, and at the stairwell of Alpine, Badger and the Hole in West Block allowed men to hear carols.

Group leaders like Mr. Allen Roberts, who has been serving the Neighborhood Baptist Church in San Francisco for 37 years, said, "I still come here to get blessed while I carol."

Minister Randy Fishback from Hillside Church in Walnut Creek added, "I've been doing this for five years, and it is still my favorite event of the year. We all receive so much from the men."

The Kurtz family came to celebrate Christmas with the congregation. "We feel blessed to participate with all of you and get so much in return. It's truly God's will and totally amazing," said husband Brian Kurtz, wife Laura, daughter Naomi and son Dakota.

An alarm at North Block stopped a second attempt

to sing to Death Row so the group improvised and sang in front of the hospital. Their hope was the sick would be able to hear as they saluted the support of Lt. Robinson and his staff.

Pastor Tom Phan of Open Arms Church said, "Mother Jackson has the greatest ministry, and we are proud to help this chapel in any way as we pray everyone lives through Jesus!"

Minister Leslie Arroyo of From the Well Ministries, a caroler for years, summed up the night. "To all of us this is an opportunity to reach other people's hearts for Jesus. Whether we fight, lie, or no matter what sin we have done, we all must know he forgives."

Singing continued Sunday night when more than 300 men and women participated in a candlelight vigil declaring Jesus' love.

"Christmas lives at San Quentin's Garden Chapel," said incarcerated church member Sergio Alvarez. "By bringing the Spirit of God to the cell blocks we give hope. It was an honor to serve. Merry Christmas to all."



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Christmas Caroling volunteers and incarcerated inside North Block



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Christmas Caroling bring happiness to prisoners inside SQ buildings

Semester ends with a Christmas celebration

By **Juan Haines**
Senior Editor

On the Friday before Christmas, Silent Night played as San Quentin students, their tutors and guests made their way into a classroom filled with the holiday spirit. It was to celebrate the year's educational successes.

Six red stockings draped the classroom's white board. Below it, Santa's tiny sled rode a golden tinsel as if it were snow. In front of the white board, two tiny Christmas trees sat on a table with gifts all around them.

"The End of the Semester Celebration at Christmas may mean something different to each of us," James Metters said. "But, coming together is something we all can do."

Metters is one of the peer-to-peer tutors in the Academic Peer Education Program (APEP). About eight years ago, the program began to support incarcerated students pursuing a GED. Also, at the event were peer educators, Rodney Baylis, Terry Hall, Raiveon "Ray-Ray" Wooden, Derry "Brotha-D" Brown and Floyd Collins.

"I've never been here on a Friday night," said Diane Kahn, one of APEP's outside facilitators. "I get more inspiration from the work you men do inside San Quentin than from people on the outside."

The classroom was set up with its chairs placed in a semi-circle, like a flat amphitheater with the head of the class as the stage.

The tutors and guests joined to perform Dad Ruins the Christmas Spirit.

The skit was a spinoff from The Grinch Who Stole Christmas. It's a story about parents struggling to let their

children know Santa Claus's real identity. The skit honored parents as Santa Claus and paid tribute to the season of giving.

Metters, Brown, and Wooden played their parts while APEP volunteers Eugenia Maluf and Joanna Cornejo played supporting roles.

After the skit, Metters and Karen Yoder, another APEP volunteer, led everyone in Christmas carols, with Joy to the World getting the most gusto.

Then a Spanish band played Christmas songs, in-

cluding *I Want to Wish You a Merry Christmas* in English and Spanish.

"I'm humbled to be here and to work with some wonderful people," said Collins, who explained that working with ESL (English as a Second Language) allowed him to build a bond. "I speak to the guys in broken Spanish."

"I want to bring joy, even though it's not easy to do here."

After caroling, the students, tutors and guests played board games, mingled and talked about future educational opportunities.

"This started off as an end of the year celebration about the students and teachers getting together," Baylis said. "But, after all was done, it was really about the true meaning of Christmas when we're so far away from family. That's why we've done it for the last seven years."

The following San Francisco Bay area volunteers came to the celebration in support of the APEP tutors and students: Tammy Cabading, Joanna Cornejo, Rich Donick, Diane Kahn, Eugenia Maluf, Connie Merron, Madison Niesyn and Karen Yoder.

Archbishop Cordileone holds San Quentin Christmas mass

God can use prison time to turn someone into the person He wants them to be, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone told a San Quentin audience during a special Christmas Mass.

"Christmas is a time to receive God's gift of His Son while committing to give back more for Him," the San Francisco archbishop commented.

Cordileone compared the prison stays of Jesus and Paul to the incarcerated people attending. He said while in prison, "God has given us time to grow into what He wants us to be. Take advantage of it."

Father George Williams, San Quentin's Catholic chaplain, said, "This year's celebration had a wonderful spirit that many outside parishes cannot emulate."

Williams spent 26 years as a priest inside prisons during Christmas. He said the holiday Mass is usually conducted at midnight for Catholics. He gave thanks and appreciation for the archbishop's assistance in the celebration and praised the work of his choir.

The Mass referred to the Bible's book of Isaiah, chapter 9, verse one which states, "The people in darkness have seen a great light."

Father Williams noted the chapel at Christmas was standing room only, which is a "good thing."

After the Mass, choir member Michael Adams said, "What the light of Christ reveals to you about who you are in your life, and what you will do with this knowledge, will define you as a Christian."

"In this time of war against the enemy, it is time for all Christians to unite," added choir singer Adriele Jackson.

Lisa Strawn, who led the Transgender Remembrance Day at SQ in November, commented, "Without Father Williams' inclusive policy, Remembrance Day for the transgender community does not work. Father Williams did not hesitate to support the community and we are grateful for him and his church's support. He is a real person of God."

Incarcerated choir member John Krueger added that Father Williams always includes Protestant Chaplain Mardi Jackson's congregation next door "in our church's prayer. We hope and pray our choir

can unite with the tremendous Protestant Chapel Choir next year to carol."

After the choir sang "O come, all ye faithful," Archbishop Cordileone reminisced about Christmas with a story about commercialism of the holiday outside.

"This time of year is hectic outside. Sales at one store after Thanksgiving included a very low price for a DVD player. The price created a wait at the store before it opened, where long lines created a big rush for the discounted DVD player. A woman who was first to get it was trampled unconscious but still held on to the DVD player...What tenacity!" said the archbishop.

"Why can't we be that tenacious about God?" he asked.

The archbishop said the Catholic Church believes Christmas is becoming more and more material. "The real meaning of Christmas is about God giving us our gift of His Son through the Virgin Mary," he said. It took some 2,000 years to prepare the Jews, Israel and the 12 tribes, he added.

The archbishop referred to David's victory over King Saul and King David's affair with Bathsheba. He commented that the biblical stories show that even in times of strife, David never wavered from worshipping the God of Israel — he never committed idolatry.

The message noted Jesus came from the lineage of David to unite His kingdom.

He expressed his desire for all Christians to maintain a silence during prayer and devotion.

The archbishop then discussed current goals of Christians everywhere. "What matters most is if we stay true to God. How do we show truth to God?"

His answer: "Walk like His Son; show no idolatry, no pride, no self-doubt in spirituality, no addiction to sins. Stay focused on God by attaining the silence of God through silent prayer."

The gift of God's son comes with responsibility, said the archbishop. "He wants this gift (of dedication) from us in return."

—By **Anthony Manuel Carvalho**

“Seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces brings me happiness”



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Vincent O'Bannon, with daughter Autumn, holds his grandsons Zy'ir and Zorion



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Ramon Ruelas with his nephews Omar, Danny and Ismael



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Sergio Alvarez with his sisters Mona and Maria, nieces Aiyana and Jaylah and nephew Javyn



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

VGSQ veterans Adam Sinegal, Carl Raybon, Brian Corder and Kevin Brinkman

Toys for Tots

Continued from Page 1

A banner hung across the main visiting room declaring “Merry Christmas.” Snowflakes, lights and garlands with red bows adorned the walls. Incarcerated fathers, uncles and granddads brought their visiting little loved ones into the children’s playroom to pick out toys to take home.

The tables were full of toys to choose from, including puzzles, charades, trivia games, Candy Land, Frozen II character sets, Marvel Avengers Black Widow and other hero figures, Vibe metallic spinners, watch and wallet sets and “Make Your Own Slime.”

A giant skee-ball game was the first toy to go. “Thank you,” said the smiling little girl. The first boy chose a Spalding NBA basketball and said, “Thank you, Merry Christmas.”

“I have so much fun doing this,” said Army veteran Kevin Brinkman, a VGSQ member since arriving at The Q in 2015. “It’s not just giving back, it’s giving forward.” Brinkman helped decorate and gave out toys for his third year.

“It’s all about the children,” said 33-year-old Marine Corps veteran Brian Corder, the new VGSQ Vice Chairman. “It’s a beautiful thing that even here

in prison children and families can get a Christmas experience, or at least something close.”

“It’s a blessing,” said Sergio Alvarez, who was visiting with his sisters, nieces and nephew. “We’ll do this next weekend too, so all the family can visit.” Visiting with his family is the highlight of his holiday season. Alvarez was visiting with his nephew for the first time in his seven-year incarceration.

“Woo woo!” said 2-year-old Jaylah, Alvarez’s niece, smiling and laughing as she grabbed a toy unicorn that began playing music and flashing lights. “It’s a nice surprise,” said Javyn, Alvarez’s 11-year-old nephew. It was the first time they and 13-year-old Aiyana got toys in prison.

Festively dressed families smiled for photos in front of a 7-foot Christmas tree decorated with garlands, balls, and a star on top.

“Every visit is a celebration, but today is a real joy,” said Jemain Hunter. He was celebrating his first Christmas together with his wife Kenya and their 19-month-old granddaughter Nayani.

“It’s a true blessing to see what lights her up—just like on the outside,” Hunter said, enjoying his granddaughter’s excitement. Nayani ran back and forth in front of the playroom and toys, smiling and giggling, and delivering

sodas from the vending machines to “Papa.”

“Santa Claus is coming to town,” sang a stuffed reindeer with red bows and bells on its antlers. “Merry Christmas!”

VGSQ staff sponsor Rachael Murray walked in with dozens more toys, including Lite-Brite, Chutes and Ladders, KerPlunk, Battleship, dolls, Legos, Transformers’ Bumblebee, and Hot Wheels. She said that the San Bruno Marines Toys for Tots program donated hundreds of toys for this year’s San Quentin event.

VGSQ member Earl Orr gave out the toys in the other visiting room in The Q’s H-Unit. Children visiting loved ones on Death Row also got to pick out toys to take home.

“Seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces brings me happiness,” said Army veteran Adam Sinegal. “It brings back good memories of Christmas with my children. I wish I was with them now.”

Danny “Heavy” Pita Jr. was visiting with his fiancée Shawna, and his little sister Harmonie. “I’m happy because I’m with my sister for the first time in about two years,” he said with a smile.

“Getting a toy was a nice surprise, but getting to see my brother is my favorite Christmas gift,” said 10-year-old Harmonie, leaning on her big brother.



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

A few of the Toys for Tots given to the visiting children

After five years at San Quentin, the Holiday Toy Program is something of a Christmas tradition for Vincent O’ Bannon and his family. He was celebrating with his wife Cynthia, daughter Autumn, and grandsons Zorion and Zy’ir.

“This family time is so happy, and toys add to the excitement,” said the boys’ mother Autumn. Three-year-old Zorion shook his head yes, smiling and said, “I love my paw paw.”

Maria, a teenager, and 4-year-old Frida came in with their mom Maribel to visit their brother Jose Sanchez.

Maria helped her little sister pick out toys: “¿Cuál quieres? ¿Cuál otro? ¿Segura?” (Which do you want? Which other one? Are you sure?)

The Sanchezes said that being together at Christmas time is important for their family. The Christmas before, Jose was in county jail. “Me siento mejor hoy porque el año pasado no pudimos abrazarnos por la ventana,” said Maribel. (I feel better today because last year we couldn’t hug through the window.)

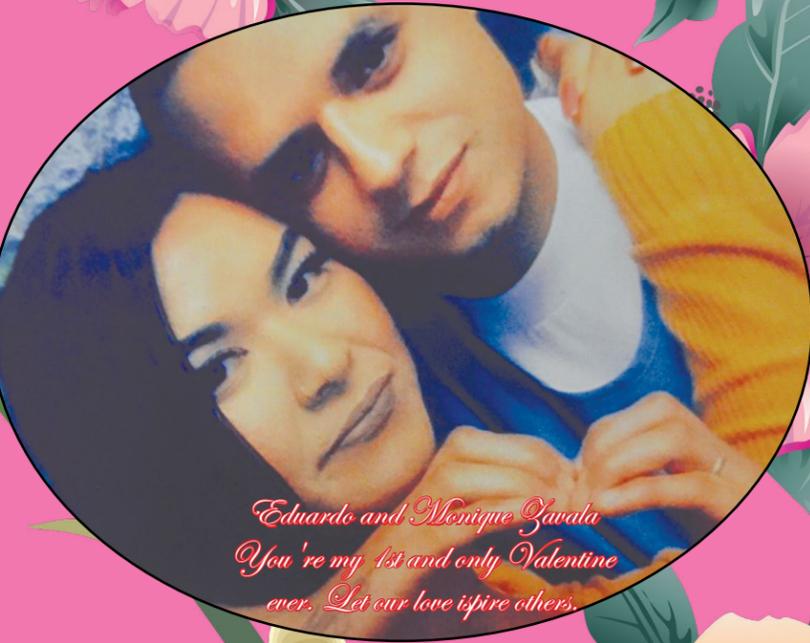
By the end of the day’s Christmas excitement, 1-year-old Ja’Mal was sound asleep

in his father Jonathan Weems’ arms. Big sister Ja’Leia said, “I’m just happy to see my family.” When her mom Danisha asked about getting a toy in prison, the 4-year-old replied, “Yep, I got a Magic Mat.”

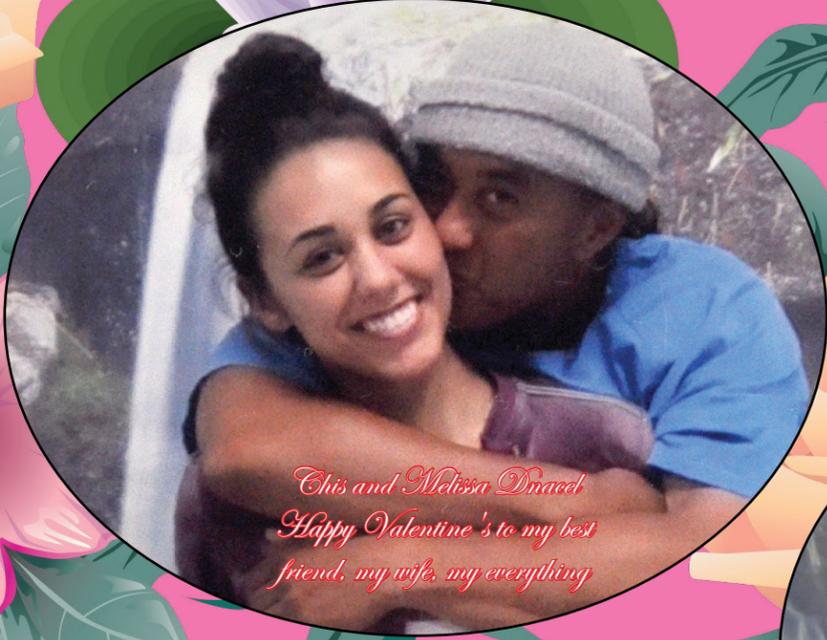
As the visiting hours ended each day at 2:00 p.m., the children came back to the playroom to pick up their toys to take home. There were many smiles, many thank yous, and even more Felices Navidades.

Families hugged and kissed once more and parted with toys in their hands and the warmth of the holiday spirit in their hearts.

The Tender Moments



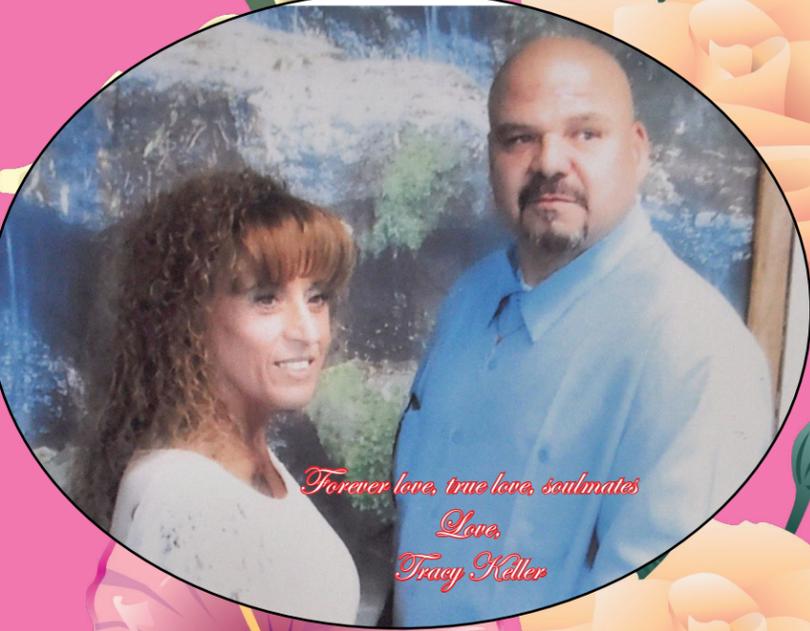
*Eduardo and Monique Zavala
You're my 1st and only Valentine
ever. Let our love inspire others.*



*Chris and Melissa Dmazel
Happy Valentine's to my best
friend, my wife, my everything*



*My Partner in love
Team B
Floyd and*



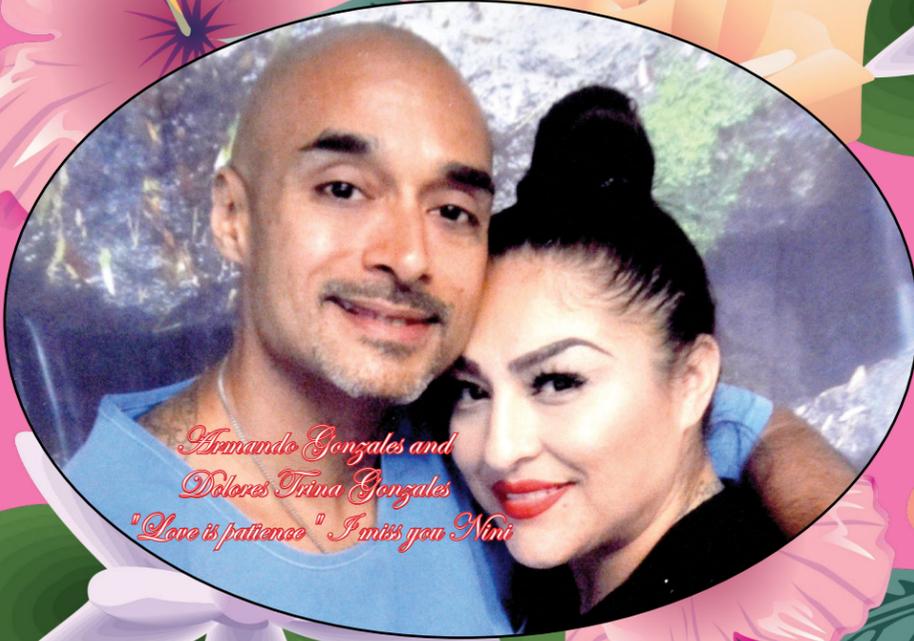
*Forever love, true love, soulmates
Love,
Tracy Keller*



*Whitney and Larry White
The best kiss ever! on one of the best days ever.*



*God's great blessing,
My amazing grace!
To ama 9/16/19
Raymond ♥ Janet*



*Armando Gonzales and
Dolores Trina Gonzales
"Love is patience" I miss you Nini*



*Michael Tomshon and Aja
Happy V-day!*

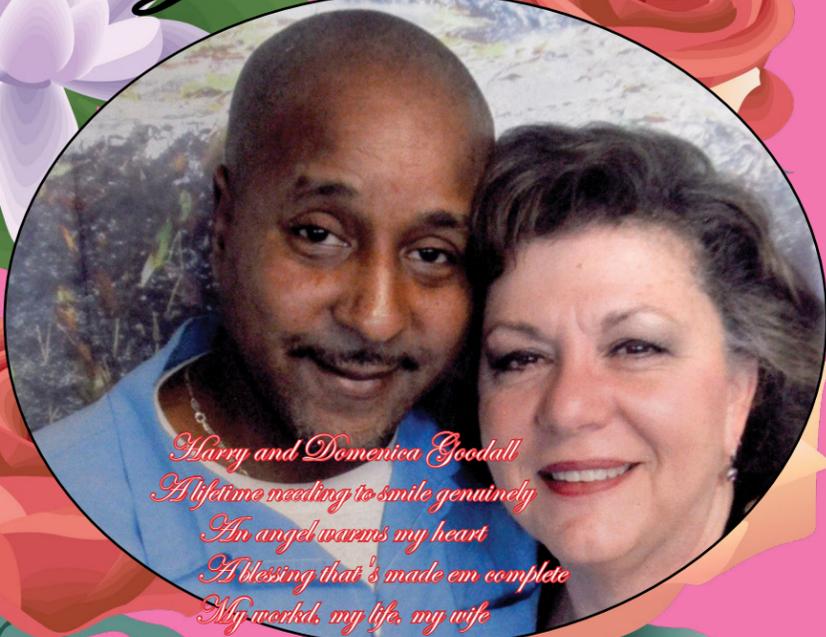


*Shawn, Marlina, Lynn and David Mason
Happy Valentine's! I love and miss you all.
Shawn*

ts of Valentine's Day



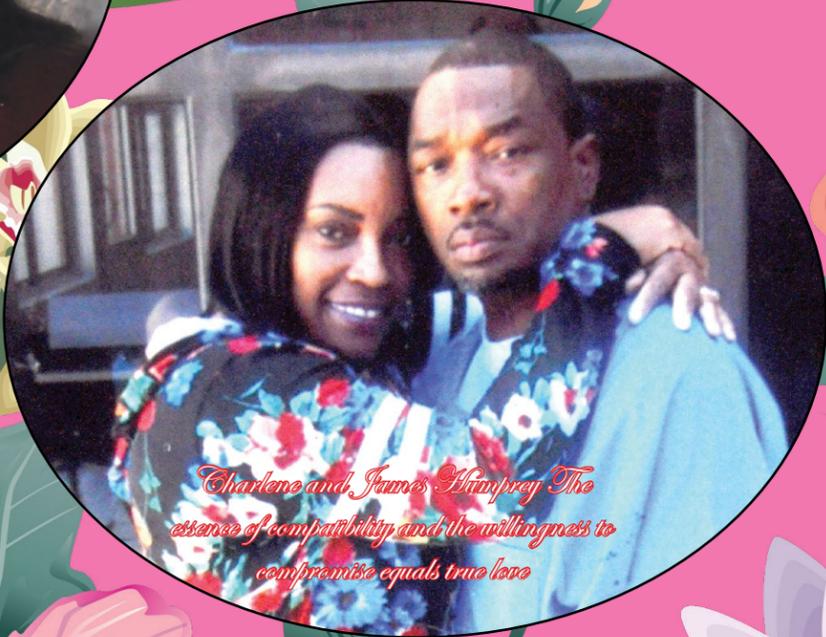
*Kate and Eddie
Happy Valentine's Day Babe ♥
Love you always!*



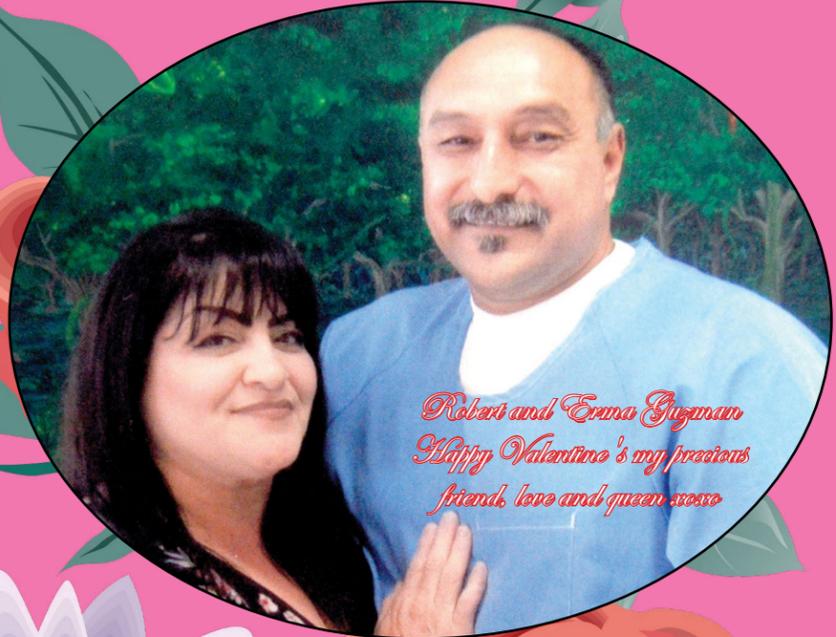
*Harry and Domenica Goodall
A lifetime needing to smile genuinely
An angel warms my heart
A blessing that's made em complete
My world, my life, my wife*



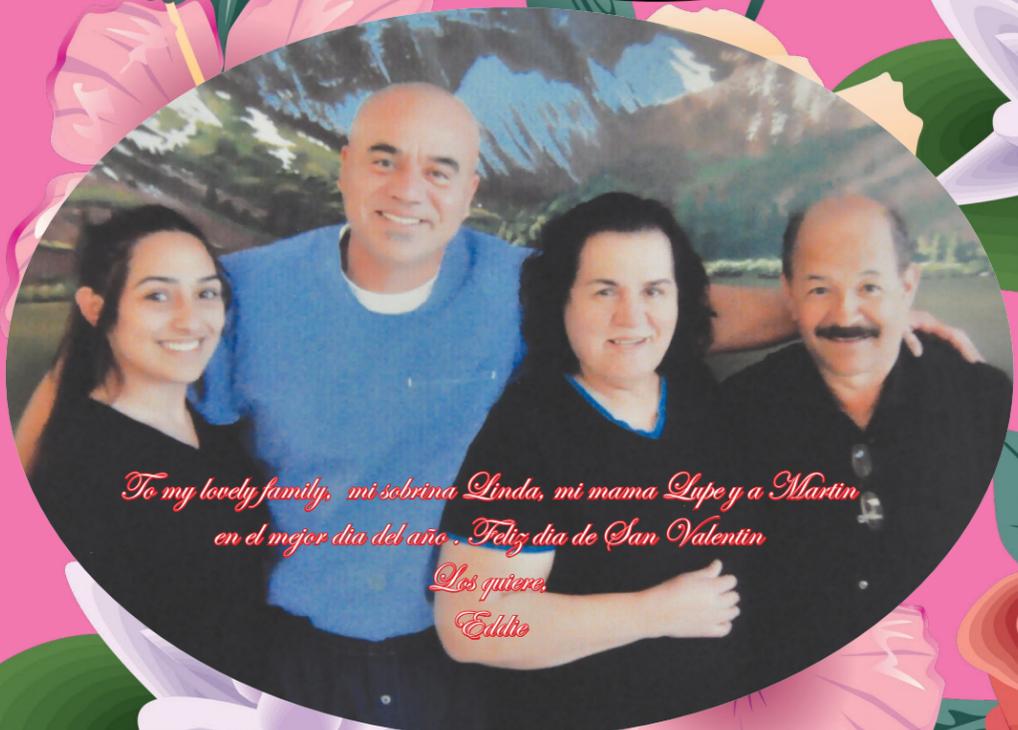
*e, life and business!
V.D.A
Vanessa*



*Charlene and James Wimprey The
essence of compatibility and the willingness to
compromise equals true love*



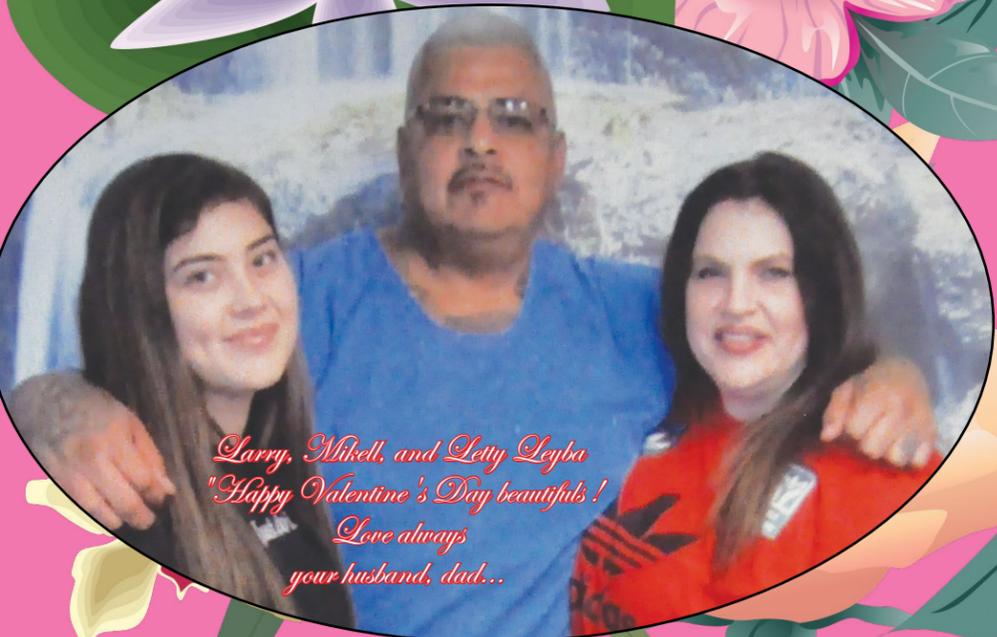
*Robert and Emma Guzman
Happy Valentine's my precious
friend, love and queen so so*



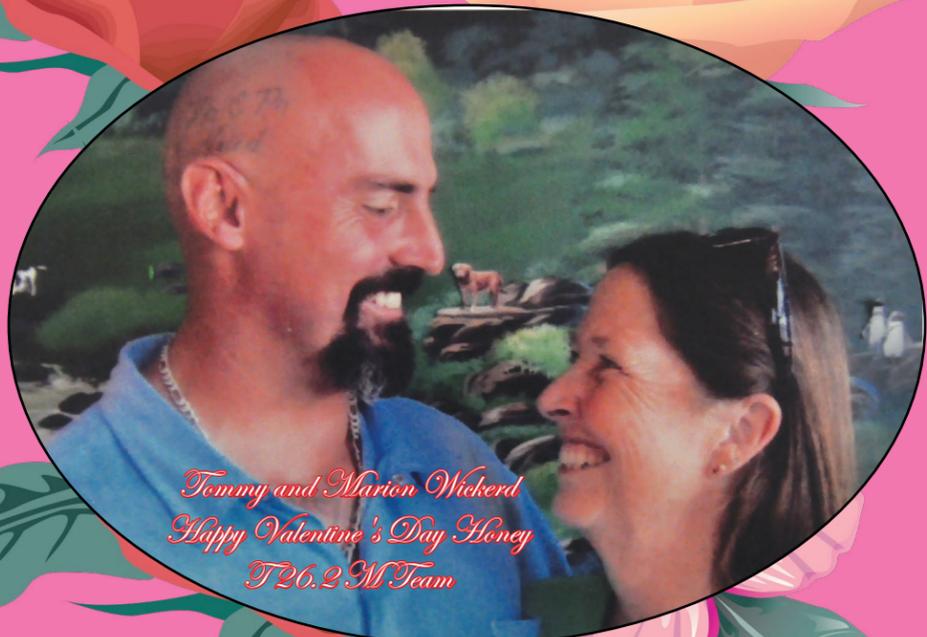
*To my lovely family, mi sobrina Linda, mi mama Lupe y a Martin
en el mejor dia del año. Feliz dia de San Valentin
Los quiero,
Eddie*



*Anthony and Lily Caravalle
I call you wife for a reason.
I understand and am
Blessed to be your husband.
Love me*



*Larry, Mikell, and Lety Leyba
"Happy Valentine's Day beautifuls!
Love always
your husband, dad...*



*Tommy and Marion Wickerd
Happy Valentine's Day Honey
T26.2 M Team*

Prison University Project Annual Open Mic

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

The Friday after Christmas, two former San Quentin residents returned to a jam-packed Catholic Chapel to mingle with old friends and perform at the Prison University Project's (PUP) Annual Open Mic.

"Be encouraged to write your own reality in the sense that if you want freedom and liberation, you have to find it in the confines that you have and let that open the gates for

you," Antwan "Banks" Williams said after returning to San Quentin 64 days after getting out.

Williams was joined by Eric "Maserati-E" Abercrombie, who got out of prison about a month before Williams did, said, "Everything I do going forward, I do it for you. The change in my life affects you. We will spread this like wild fires. We're changing the culture from in here."

First Watch Producer Jesse Rose hosted the event. The program opened with Greg-

ory "White Eagle" Coates on wood flute, Timothy Young on classical guitar, Courtney Rein on violin and accompanied by Mark Kinney on keyboard.

Brian Asey and Dre'Quinn Johnson showed a short film they produced, Teaching & Learning PUP Style. PUP students talked about the impact that an educational opportunity gave them. Teachers talked about the power of education.

Poetry, spoken word and personal essays dominated the

event and the comedy routines got lots of laughs.

James Jenkins' routine on passing gas rolled the audience the most.

"Don't go in the cell with James," he said about the rumors about himself. "He'll gas you out."

Raphael "Nephew" Bankston rapped about life from an incarcerated person's perspective with Tim Young strumming his guitar as accompaniment.

It's kind of hard to see what we see, but the sun you see is the sun I see.

I see oppression and empathy being abused.

Stu Ross read an excerpt from his novel, *Going Bad Doesn't Make Men Less Attractive*.

When the barefooted Ronell "Roach" Draper took the stage, he said, "I don't know what I'm going to do. Maybe this doesn't make sense, but I understand that's a barbed wire fence."

Nevertheless, the audience seemed to enjoy the humorous performance as there was generous laughter and applause as he walked off the stage.

Harold Banks read a poem, *From Grape to Raisin*. It's interestingly about shifting

narrative, beginning from the perspective of a child, then a mother and then a father. The poem is about the source of happiness and love and the cycle of life.

Standing with his back to the audience, Timothy "T-Bone" Hicks read "*I am a Human Being*." He said that it was inspired by PUP teachers who were determined to get the students out of their cells for class.

Philippi "Kels" Kelly and Steve "Rhashiyd" Zinnamon performed a hip-hop rap that spoke truth to power from "unlikely" characters.

Andrew Grazeny read a personal essay about his years of incarceration.

"I sleep because it is too painful to live. The sunrises and forces one more day. I find myself caught in life, like in a rip tide. I never learned to stop struggling."

Isaiah Love read *Carrots, Coffee & Eggs*, an inspirational poem about self-confidence, reaching one's potential and living one's dreams. "It's what I fall back on when I too inspire to build to create," Love said.

Wade read *My Penal Reality*, which described his experience in Pelican Bay Prison.

He wrote the piece more than 12 years ago as a "pretty angry" person, but "calm came over me," he said.

Brandon Terrell gave a motivational and self-confidence performance, *Believe*.

"If you believe deeply that there is no failure, then your belief would come true," Terrell told the audience. He walked up and down the chapel aisle, encouraging the audience to believe in themselves and that everyone should believe in their destiny, believe that they would be successful and get out of prison.

Aaron "Showtime" Taylor performed a comedy routine that left the audience rolling in laughter as he played guitar and sang parody about being

on a halal diet and eating "state bologna sandwiches."

Andrew Wadsworth read a poem, *16 Bars*, as Aaron Taylor accompanied him on guitar.

A spoken word piece, *16 Bars*, addressed Wadsworth's turbulent life that began going bad at 16 years old. He talked about becoming a dope dealer, running the streets and living a negative life. The narrative shifts to understanding what it means to be accountable for one's actions and realizing that the meaning of life is love, not hustling, stealing and violating other people's rights.

Anthony "Habib" Watkins read *Fatherless Child*. The poem was about understanding the power of education and literacy as well as living honorably and respectfully.

Richard Lathan read two poems. The first addressed the way people communicate through their actions:

Is there a way to speak without opening your mouth?

A young woman, who lost her life, inspired the second poem.

Gerry Sanchez Muratalla and Berny Marroquin entertained the audience with Spanish music. Muratalla's guitar brought hand clapping and whooping with some people dancing in the aisle and a standing ovation.

Deavon Torrence read a poem, *You Made It*. It was about being successful and overcoming obstacles of discrimination in a racist criminal justice system.

• Raiveon "Ray Ray" Wooden read a poem about finding self-confidence while being persecuted.

• Derry "Brotha Dee" Brown's *Dancing to Praise God* had the audience standing and clapping.

• George Mesro El-Cole read a fantasy piece that was extremely descriptive.

• Thanh Tran performed a hip-hop piece about moving forward in life.



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Will Bondurant San Quentin PUP teacher Alex Naeve

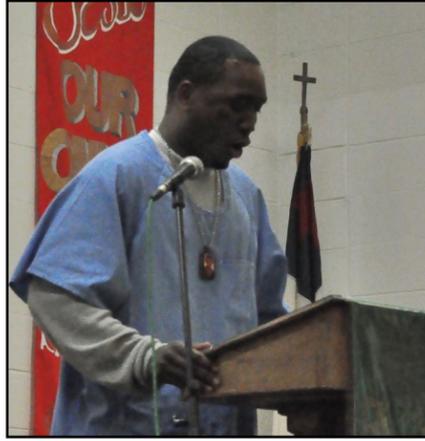


Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Andrew Wadsworth reading a poem



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Gerry Sanchez Muratalla and Berny Marroquin



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Steve "Rashiyd" Zinnamon AKA "RawLMNO" performing a hip-hop rap



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Antwan "Banks" Williams

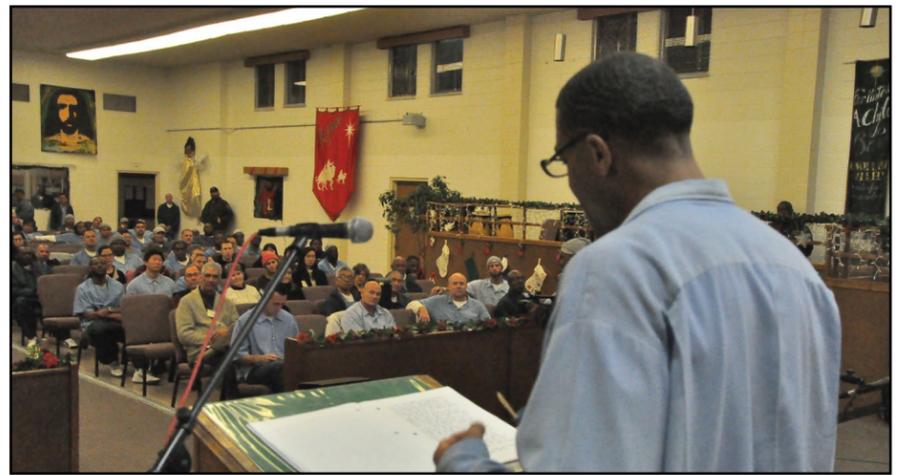


Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Raphael "Nephew" Bankston



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Eric "Maserati-E" Abercrombie



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

(Back) Eric "Maserati-E" Abercrombie, Philippi "Kels" Kelly, Antwan "Banks" Williams, Thanh Tran, (front) Aaron Taylor and George Mesro El-Cole

Falta de libros en español aleja a lectores de la biblioteca



Por: Heriberto Arredondo Reportero

El poder de los libros va más allá de la educación. El conocimiento y las herramientas para lidiar con diferentes situaciones se obtienen leyendo textos durante el encarcelamiento.

Un reciente artículo de la publicación *Mother Jones* (*Books Have the Power to Rehabilitate. But Prisons Are Blocking Access to Them*), dice que "California tiene uno de los mejores programas de bibliotecas. El estado gasta \$350,000 dólares anualmente en libros de recreación para prisioneros". Esto es mucho más de lo que gastan otros estados.

Sin embargo, el acceso a libros en español en prisiones como San Quentin es limitado.

"Solo hay 200 libros en español", dijo el administrador de la biblioteca de San Quentin, Isaiah Hurtado.

Para los prisioneros que no dominan totalmente el inglés, la falta de materiales en español limita sus oportunidades educativas y por lo tanto su rehabilitación. El único lugar donde

los internos pueden adquirir libros es la biblioteca local, pero desafortunadamente la cantidad es limitada.

"Yo pienso que estamos trabajando con la población de E.S.L (Inglés como segunda lengua). Ellos han estado viniendo acá a buscar libros en nuestra colección", añadió Hurtado.

"Tenemos alrededor de 8,000 a 10,000 libros en inglés para leer", dijo Darin Williams, uno de los reos trabajadores de la biblioteca.

"Las clases de la escuela local de educación traen a sus estudiantes cada primer y tercer lunes y martes de cada mes. Para la mayoría de los individuos que visitan la biblioteca el inglés es su segunda lengua. Los maestros ayudan a los estudiantes a familiarizarse con la biblioteca o librería. Pero su prioridad es inspirarlos a leer", dijo Williams.

Hurtado dijo que habría más interés si las personas supieran lo que actualmente está disponible. "(Ayudaría) si pudiéramos notificarles a través de los servicios en español en la Iglesia y de los grupos de autoayuda y dejarles saber de los recursos que tenemos", dijo.

En una encuesta reciente de la comunidad hispana encarcelada de San Quentin, 22 de 56 personas expresaron que les gustaría tener más variedad de libros en español.

Hurtado está de acuerdo con esta declaración, "ne-

cesitamos más variedad. Lo que tenemos está escrito por autores mexicanos y uno que otro autor de otros países como la escritora chilena Isabel Allende y algunas traducciones de libros en inglés. Uno de mis objetivos es obtener más materiales

de autoayuda en español. En este momento no tenemos mucho que ofrecer. Aumentado el inventario y selección traería más personas sin importar el idioma que hablen".

La necesidad de tener más libros ha sido sugerida por los empleados. Antes de ha-

cer un pedido de libros éstos necesitan ser aprobados. "No hemos tenido una orden en por lo menos 10 meses desde que empecé a trabajar aquí, pero estamos esperando el permiso para comprar más libros", dijo Hurtado. "Estamos trabajando en ello".



File photo

Presos y trabajadores en la biblioteca de San Quentin

Nuevas leyes beneficiarán a personas en prisión



Por Juan Espinosa Diseñador gráfico y periodista

En el 2019 el gobernador de California Gavin Newsom firmó varias iniciativas de ley que benefician a las personas encarceladas y que entrará en vigor en enero del 2020.

Estas son algunas de esas iniciativas:

- **SB 136** del Senador Scott Wiener, demócrata de San Francisco. Esta iniciativa de ley remueve el año adicional impuesto por cada crimen grave cometido previamente o a la actual sentencia servida en prisión.

- **AB 484** del asambleísta Reggie Jones-Sawyer, demócrata de Los Angeles. Remueve la sentencia mínima mandatoria de 180 días de encarcelamiento como condición de libertad condicional por la venta de cocaína

en polvo, base de cocaína (crack), heroína, y phencyclidine (PCP).

- **SB 36** del Senador Robert Hertzberg, demócrata de Van Nuys. Mejora la transparencia de evaluaciones de riesgo requiriendo validación regular de herramientas de evaluación y requiriendo al consejo judicial publicar un reporte anual en su página de internet con estadísticas relacionada al resultado al perjuicio potencial.

- **AB 1618** del Asambleísta Reggie Jones-Sawyer, demócrata de Los Angeles. Prohíbe la negociación de sentencias que requiere al ofensor renunciar a futuros beneficios o cambios en la ley que puedan ocurrir después de la fecha en la que el ofensor negoció su periodo de encarcelamiento.

- **AB 1261** del asambleísta Reggie Jones-Sawyer. Elimina los requerimientos de registración en la oficina de policía para individuos acu-

sados de algún crimen relacionado con drogas.

- **AB 917** del a asambleísta Eloise Gómez Reyes demócrata de Terrace. Acelera la certificación en el proceso para víctimas inmigrantes, incluyendo cuando la víctima es retirada del proceso, con el propósito de obtener una visa T o visa U.

- **AB 1394** del asambleísta Tom Daly, demócrata de Anaheim. Elimina la imposición de cuotas del Corte Superior o el Departamento de Libertad condicional que aplican para sellar las carpetas en las cortes juveniles.
- **AB 965** del asambleísta Mark Stone demócrata de Scotts Valley. Le da autorización al secretario del

Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitación de California (CDCR) a aplicar créditos aplicables por la ley 57 para personas menores de 25 años sentenciadas sean elegibles a una audiencia temprana cuando estos reciban créditos por mérito y que estén sujetos a las regulaciones del CDCR.

- **AB 45** del asambleísta Mark Stone demócrata de Scotts Valley. Prohíbe al departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitación de California (CDCR) y cárceles de la ciudad y municipales cobrar a las personas encarceladas el pago por visitas al médico.

Estas nuevas iniciativas de ley se suman a las anteriores que ya han entrado en efecto. Las nuevas leyes son parte de los avances para mejorar la justicia social en el estado.

La organización *Ella Baker Center for Human Rights* también menciona que en el 2020 seguirá con la ba-

talla e impulsará seis nuevas propuestas de ley que beneficiaran a más personas.

El boceto de *Ella Baker Center* señala que las victorias conseguidas han abierto las puertas para que muchas condenas del pasado sean reconsideradas. "Recientemente publicamos una guía para ayudar a entender en el proceso de resentencias conocido como: *Back to Court: A Resentencing Guide to the Fair and Just Sentencing and Reform Act (SB 1393)* y el código penal *PC 1170 (d) (1)*. Esta herramienta ha sido diseñada como un recurso específico para las personas que han sido impactada por el SB 1393 con sentencias adicionales de 5 años a sus sentencias corrientes como consecuencia de crímenes serios del pasado, y también un recurso para quien este interesado en el *PC 1170(d) (1)* de re sentencia y cómo esta ha impactado otras sentencias violentas adicionales", dice la publicación.



Photo stock

Programas de auto ayuda en español hacen posible la rehabilitación



Por Oscar Aguilar Periodista

Los programas en español son fundamentales para la rehabilitación de la comunidad latina en la prisión de San Quentin.

Pablo Ramírez de 54 años de edad, quien cumple una sentencia de 34 años a cadena perpetua, llegó a la prisión de Solano a la prisión de San Quentin en el 2013.

Ramírez ha aprovechado al máximo los programas en español que se ofrecen en San Quentin. Él piensa que estos programas están diseñados para enseñar a las personas a pensar positivamente y regresarlos a la sociedad rehabilitados.

"Los programas me han ayudado a entender cómo

llegué hasta el punto de cometer un crimen. También me ayudan a comprender que los pensamientos negativos vienen de la cultura machista", dijo Ramírez.

Ramírez dice que las expresiones que significan falta de respeto no necesariamente tienen que generar una reacción violenta "He aprendido que mi validación viene desde adentro hacia fuera y no de afuera hacia adentro," dijo Ramírez.

"El programa que más me ayudó fue *Trasformando la Ira en Poder* (conocido en inglés como GRIP) porque me ayudó a identificar las sensaciones de mi cuerpo, las emociones, los pensamientos y a tomar mejores decisiones," dijo Ramírez.

Ramírez dice que la comunidad hispana debe aprovechar los programas ofrecidos en San Quentin ya que estos

les puede ayudar a vivir de una manera más positiva y prepararlos para regresar a la sociedad de una mejor manera.

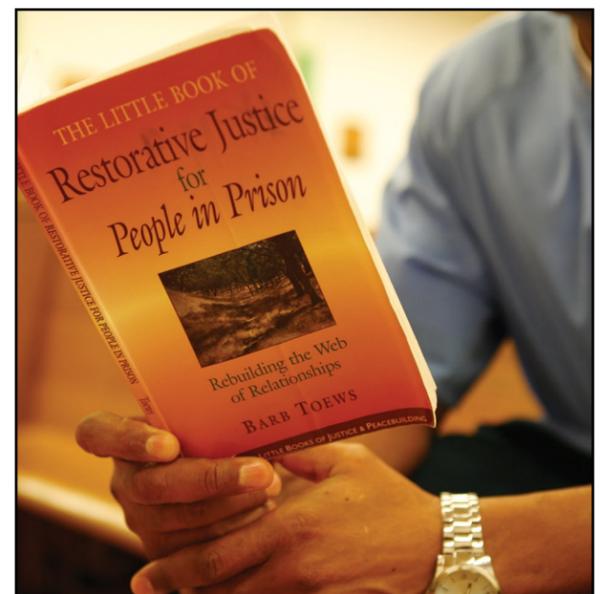
Martin Gómez, de 52 años y originario de Michoacán, México, cumple una sentencia de 50 años a cadena perpetua. Piensa que los programas son buenos porque ayudan a las personas a cambiar la mentalidad negativa y a valorar a las personas.

"He Participado en cinco programas de español y pienso que vale la pena porque me han ayudado a conocerme, a lidiar con mis emociones y a reaccionar en vez de actuar. Además hacen sentir a las personas que valen mucho, y las personas que vienen a dar las clases no los miran como presos sino como (seres humanos)", comentó Gómez.

Ramírez y Gómez dicen que sería de mucha ayuda que programas de rehabilitación como los que se ofrecen en San Quentin fueran accesibles también en las escuelas, ya que podrían ayudar a los jóvenes a saber cómo enfrentar situaciones que les podrían llevar a la violencia. También les ayudarían a sentir compasión y empatía por las personas que atraviesan por problemas de ira.

Programas de auto ayuda en español en San Quentin:

- *TRUST manejo de ira
- *VOEG (Victim Offender Education Group)
- *GRIP (Guiding Rage into Power).
- *Alcoholicos Anonimos



File photo

Un prisionero leyendo un texto de Justicia Restaurativa

Eliminación de becas federales impacta programas educativos en prisiones de Estados Unidos

Por Alfred King
Journalism Guild Writer

La eliminación de las becas federales Pell ha impactado dramáticamente los programas educativos en las prisiones de Estados Unidos, reportó la Agencia de Estadísticas de Justicia.

La participación de internos en programas educativos a lo largo de la nación bajó un 50 por ciento, de acuerdo con un artículo de *prisonpolicy.org*.

“Restableciendo las becas Pell a personas encarceladas permitiría a aproximadamente 463,000 internos ser elegibles para tomar cursos de colegio gratuitos. “Es tiempo de que el gobierno no solo restaure esta ayuda crítica, sino que la expanda,” reportó *prisonpolicy.org*.

Una encuesta entre presos en 2014 reveló que al 40 por ciento le gustaría inscribirse en un programa de título asociado o de licenciatura. Excluir

a los internos de los programas educacionales es un factor que contribuye a las probabilidades de futuros encarcelamientos, indicó el artículo.

Cuando las becas Pell fueron eliminadas en 1994, los programas de colegio en prisiones dependieron de otros apoyos financieros y voluntarios, indicó el artículo.

Darin Williams, 57, quien fue sentenciado en el Condado de Los Ángeles a 34 años a cadena perpetua, llegó a

la prisión en 1996, dos años después que las becas Pell fueron anuladas para los internos.

Williams obtuvo un título de Asociado en Artes en San Quentin. Él dijo en una entrevista, que él hubiera llegado más lejos si la becas Pell estaban disponibles.

“El haber tenido la oportunidad de recibir cualquier tipo de educación ha sido un regalo de Dios. Eso amplió mi perspectiva y me dio

otros ojos para mirar el mundo”, dijo Williams. “Si ellos regresan las becas Pell, la gente despojada del derecho a estudiar y que esperan regresar a la sociedad, podrían beneficiarse.”

—Traducido por: Carlos Drouaillet, Reportero



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN
Graduados del Patten University Project de San Quentin

Compañía de cárceles privadas apoya a partidarios de Trump

Por Amir Shabazz
Journalism Guild Writer

Partidarios de extrema derecha, que apoyan a Donald Trump, como el grupo político Mayoría Americana y la Legión Republicana, que venden sombreros MAGA en internet, celebraron su segunda Conferencia Anual de Prioridad Americana el 10 de octubre pasado, en el ‘Trump National Doral Miami Golf Club’ en Florida. En la conferencia se presentaron una va-

riedad de oradores conservadores, dirigidos por Donald Trump Jr., y apoyados, en parte, por la compañía privada de prisiones Grupo GEO.

El Grupo GEO es una de las compañías privadas de administración de prisiones más grandes en el país y ha sido objeto de controversia a nivel nacional debido al pobre manejo de las cárceles. Según la publicación *Mother Jones* y la Fundación Nacional para el Progreso, el Grupo GEO es también uno de

los mayores beneficiarios de Donald Trump.

El grupo GEO ha cosechado numerosos beneficios desde que Trump tomó la presidencia, asegurando favores, préstamos y contratos valorados cerca de medio billón de dólares para albergar inmigrantes detenidos, según *Mother Jones*. ICE ha llegado a ser la mayor fuente de ingresos de la compañía.

Después de varios incidentes, demandas e investigaciones relacionadas al grupo

GEO, grupos bancarios a través del país empezaron a limitar su asociación con la compañía, retirando sus fondos y apoyo.

Mientras que las acciones de la compañía pierden valor, ésta ha incrementado su apoyo a Trump, contribuyendo a su campaña y al acto inaugural de su presidencia. Además ha tenido juntas anuales en el centro-vacacional de Trump el ‘Doral Resort’ y patrocinado la reciente conferencia conservadora ahí.

Según *Mother Jones*, ni el grupo GEO ni los organizadores de la Conferencia de Prioridad Americana respondieron a la petición de comentario.

Alex Friedman del Centro de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos no cree que el grupo GEO se preocupe por la mala publicidad; después de todo, él dice, “esta es una compañía que encarcela gente con la intención de generar ganancias... Ellos manejan instituciones

donde gente ha sido asesinada. Ellos albergan niños en instituciones que parecen cárceles.”

Friedman concluyó diciendo a *Mother Jones*, “En esta conferencia, todos los otros locos deberían estar mortificados y avergonzados de estar asociados con el grupo GEO, y no al contrario”.

—Traducido por: Carlos Drouaillet, Reportero

VIETNAMESE

Tác Giả: Michael Jace
Hội Đoàn Tác Giả Nhà Báo

Công tố viên Jackie Lacey của quận Los Angeles đang đối đầu với sự chỉ trích gay gắt vì liên can tới những vấn đề truy tố về hình sự, bao gồm đến luật án tử hình, theo lời tường thuật từ hội đoàn bảo vệ nhân quyền American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Lacey với việc hiện tại kết án tử tù là một việc làm vô cùng “xấu hổ” và đặt ra nhiều câu hỏi đáng đả kích về việc kỳ thị của nhiều vụ án.

Những qui định của Lacey hoàn toàn trái ngược với qui định của công tố viên George Gascon tại quận San Francisco. Gascon chưa bao giờ trưng phạt bất cứ một tù nhân nào với mức án tử hình.

Miền nam cali và công tố viên

Gascon là một cựu cảnh sát của quận Los Angeles và tuyên bố sẽ chống đối với Lacey trong lần bầu cử kỳ này vào lúc 2020, tờ báo *Los Angeles Times* tường thuật vào ngày 21 tháng 6.

ACLU điều tra và tìm ra được danh sách của 22 người bị tuyên án tử hình từ lúc Lacey đảm nhiệm chức vụ từ năm 2012, với một số người da màu: 13 người Nam Mỹ, 8 người da đen và một người Á Châu. Tất cả 22 can phạm đều ở quận Los Angeles.

“Quận Los Angeles là chỗ có nhiều kẻ sát nhân nhất trong nước Mỹ khi đòi hỏi đến hình phạt tử hình,” theo lời tường thuật từ Jeffrey Robinson của hội đoàn ACLU.

“Luật tử hình tại Hoa Kỳ đã trở thành một di sản và

hoàn toàn không thể tách ra được với sự kỳ thị và hung bạo, một hành hình không cần đến xử lý tòa án nào,” Robinson nói thêm.

Lacey vẫn duy trì sự kỳ thị chủng tộc không phải là một yếu tố trong việc truy tố phạm nhân qua hình phạt tử hình và cũng biện hộ về cách thức quyết định và lựa chọn phạm nhân nào để yêu cầu chính phủ tiểu bang tử hình.

“Nếu luật tử hình vẫn còn hợp pháp tại tiểu bang Cali, một ủy ban gồm nhiều công tố viên sẽ xem xét lại từng vụ án và áp dụng một hình thức kiểm duyệt thận trọng nhất dựa vào chứng cứ hơn là vì màu da và chủng tộc của can phạm và nạn nhân,” Lacey tuyên bố trên mạng *The Appeal*.

Tuy nhiên, tài liệu Lacey đưa ra đều trái ngược với lời xác nhận. Ông Robinson nói, “Điều quan trọng của các yếu tố làm thêm trầm trọng của từng vụ án là màu da của nạn nhân. Cộng thêm vào yếu tố thứ hai làm cho vụ án càng thêm trầm trọng là màu da của can phạm.”

Gascon giữ kín tất cả những tài liệu có liên quan đến nghi phạm nhằm ngăn chặn công tố viên nhìn thấy về luật án tử hình, tờ báo *Times* tường trình.

Cũng từ tờ báo *Times*, từ khi Lacey được ứng cử thành công tố viên vào năm 2012,

bà ta trở thành người phụ nữ da đen đầu tiên được đảm nhận vai trò của văn phòng này. Bà ta được sự ủng hộ của các đảng viên tự do và mong mỗi sẽ có một phương án mới về tư pháp hình luật.

Thị trưởng của quận Los Angeles nói thêm rằng, “Bà ta rất thông minh, hiệu quả với tầm nhìn rõ ràng và lúc nào cũng đặt trách nhiệm về pháp lý trên hết bất cứ việc gì.”

Cassandra Stubbs, một giám đốc của hội đoàn bảo vệ nhân quyền về dự án tử hình, đưa ra một đánh giá khác hẳn, “Không công bằng và kỳ thị,” Stubbs tuyên bố, “Đó là một di sản được để

lại từ công tố viên về luật tử hình tại quận Los Angeles. Theo tôi nghĩ điều này rất quan trọng cho những người đi bầu cử tại quận Los Angeles yêu cầu bà ta chịu trách nhiệm đó.”

Lacey đã từng tuyên bố ủng hộ luật án tử hình, chú ý thêm vào luật pháp trong tiểu bang và người bầu cử cũng đồng thời ủng hộ luật này. Văn phòng Lacey vẫn tiếp tục theo đuổi các vụ án tử hình mới nhất. Hiện tại bà ta đang mong muốn được tái cử trong năm 2020, theo lời tường thuật của tờ báo *Times*.

— Dịch giả-Tú Trần

Tử vong tại San Diego

Tác Giả: Alfred King
Hội Đoàn Tác Giả Nhà Báo

Nhà tù của quận San Diego báo cáo 140 tù nhân bị tử vong từ năm 2009, trội hơn tất cả những quận khác. Việc này trùng hợp với cùng năm Sheriff Bill Gore tiếp quản.

Thập niên vừa qua, trung bình mỗi tháng một tù nhân tử vong. Nguyên nhân gồm có bệnh kinh niên, xài thuốc quá liều, tự tử và cố sát, theo báo cáo của *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Thuộc hạ của ông Gore nói rằng họ đã làm tất cả để nhận diện và chữa trị những tù nhân bị bệnh tâm thần.

Tờ báo mở một cuộc điều tra dài 6 tháng và cho biết rằng số tử vong tại nhà tù này là cao nhất trong tiểu bang Cali và không thấy dấu hiệu giảm bớt.

Những nhà phê bình nói rằng nhà tù không làm tận lực, như làm hàng rào để ngăn chặn những tù nhân muốn tự sát khỏi nhảy lầu hoặc tăng thêm nhân viên chăm sóc bệnh nhân tâm thần.

Có một vụ liên quan đến một anh thanh niên nhiều lần hăm dọa muốn tự sát. Anh ta dùng bao ni-lông làm cho mình nghẹt thở đến khi chết.

Một vụ tử vong khác là một người 34 tuổi với bệnh tim

trầm trọng bị đưa lộn thuốc và than khó thở.

Hơn một thập niên qua quận này đã trả \$19.9 triệu để giảm xếp việc thừa kiện và chi phí cho luật sư.

“Thuốc do của một xã hội là cách chúng ta cư xử những người dễ bị tổn thương; dùng thuốc do đây thì quận San Diego thất bại thê thảm,” luật sư Julia Yoo phát biểu, người đã thành công kiện quận này cho gia đình của tù nhân bị tử vong.

Đa số những tử vong này xảy ra do nguyên nhân tự nhiên; tuy nhiên những báo cáo khám thi thể cho thấy rằng đa số những cái chết này có thể ngăn ngừa nếu những tù nhân này được chăm sóc chu đáo.

Tài liệu cũng cho thấy rằng có nhiều tù nhân chết từ những bệnh có thể trị được, như tiểu đường, viêm phổi, hoặc đau dạ dày.

Hệ thống nhà tù Los Angeles lớn gấp ba lần San Diego, nhưng chỉ có 158 vụ tử vong.

Trong một vụ sát nhân khác, một người 70 tuổi bị bệnh tâm thần bị đánh chết bởi một tù nhân to lớn với biệt danh “Evil”.

Cảnh sát nhà tù đã thực hiện những thay đổi để cải thiện hoàn cảnh trong tù như ngăn chặn tự tử, bác sĩ tâm

thần chữa trị qua màn hình, và gia tăng sự giám thị.

Những tù nhân bị giam trong khu giám thị cao được cho mền, tắm, hoặc giường ngủ đã được sửa lại, tất cả với chút ít thành công. Cuối năm 2015, thêm 6 tù nhân tự sát; 5 người nữa trong năm 2016, và ít nhất 6 người từ năm 2017.

Disability Rights California (quyền tàn tật) vừa đưa ra một thông báo rằng hệ thống nhà tù đang trong tình trạng khủng hoảng và nói rằng: “Hồ sơ công cộng ghi lại những thương vong do thiếu sự giám sát gây ra. Gia đình của nạn nhân đã gửi đơn kiện nhân viên nhà tù về tội có tình làm ngơ đến tù nhân bị bệnh tâm thần.”

Luật sư Eugene Iradale, một trong những người thừa kiện quận hạt, nói rằng công chức của San Diego có một cái nhìn thiên cận khi nói đến chăm sóc sức khỏe cho tù nhân.

“Quận hạt San Diego đã thử làm việc theo cách rẻ tiền thay vì mượn các bác sĩ giỏi với mức lương cao, họ mang ra đầu thầu,” Iradale nói. “Nếu chúng ta nhìn đến những phí tổn để giảm xếp những vụ kiện, họ cũng không có lợi được bao nhiêu.”

— Dịch giả: Dũng Trần

Hội hỗ trợ tù nhân chung thân

Tác Giả: Kevin D. Sawyer
Hội Đoàn Tác Giả Nhà Báo

Sự chuẩn bị và cách làm việc của luật sư tại những phiên xử tha tù là một vấn đề lớn đối với nam và nữ đang bị tù chung thân tại Cali, theo một sự thăm dò của một hội hỗ trợ tù nhân chung thân, Life Support Alliance (LSA).

“Tuy cuộc thăm dò này không phải là một kết luận dựa trên sự phân tích khoa học, nhưng nó rất thú vị và xác định cái khuynh hướng và phạm vi quan tâm.” LSA phát biểu trong tin thư Lifer-Line.

LSA báo cáo hơn một nửa tù nhân trả lời cuộc thăm dò nói họ “không cảm thấy luật sư chuẩn bị đại diện họ tại những phiên xét xử này. Lý do đưa ra là phần lớn luật sư không bỏ đủ thời gian và xem xét lại hồ sơ của thân chủ.

“Tù nhân nói rằng luật sư thường gặp họ chỉ có một lần vài ngày trước phiên xử. Thời gian gặp thường ít hơn 20 phút, có lúc ngắn chừng 10 phút.”

Kết luận của sự thăm dò đã được đề trình lên ban điều hành tha tù, Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) trong một buổi họp mà quần chúng có thể đóng góp ý kiến.

Một cuộc thăm dò không chính thức đưa ra những vấn đề quan tâm của tù

nhân chung thân như sau: 73% của những người trả lời cuộc thăm dò ngày bị từ chối không được tha ra, 26% được thả, và 1% đồng ý không thích hợp được thả. BPH đang trong quá trình thẩm định lại việc chọn lựa luật sư cho tù nhân.

“Tù nhân cho biết một phần ba của số luật sư bổ nhiệm, sau khi gặp riêng với hội đồng xét xử, khuyên họ nên đồng ý rằng họ chưa thích hợp để được thả ra”

Theo CCR Title 15, “Một tù nhân có thể tình nguyện từ bỏ việc cứu xét được thả ra với bất cứ lý do nào, nhưng phải trình lên bằng văn bản.”

Theo sự thăm dò của LSA, có rất nhiều luật sư do chính phủ bổ nhiệm để đại diện tù nhân đến những phiên xử thiếu chuẩn bị và thậm chí không mang theo giấy tờ mà thân chủ đã gửi cho họ. Vài luật sư thú nhận rằng họ không có thời gian

để chuẩn bị chu đáo. Một số khác thì không thông hiểu những điểm tế nhị của phiên xử. Một luật sư đã nói với thân chủ của mình rằng, “Tôi đã làm hỏng việc.”

Tù nhân cho biết một phần ba của số luật sư bổ nhiệm, sau khi gặp riêng với hội đồng xét xử, khuyên họ nên đồng ý rằng họ chưa thích hợp để được thả ra. Khuynh hướng này gây ra mối lo ngại cho tù nhân.

LSA nói rằng không phải tất cả luật sư bổ nhiệm làm việc thiếu hiệu quả. Thật ra, có một luật sư bổ nhiệm được đánh giá rất cao, thời gian dành cho thân chủ của cô là 90 phút.

Một luật sư khác nói với thân chủ rằng, “cứ nói những gì họ muốn nghe, bắt chấp đó có phải là sự thật hay không.”

Sự thăm dò cũng cho biết rằng có vài luật sư riêng cũng thiếu kiến thức, chuẩn bị, và hiệu quả bởi họ chưa có kinh nghiệm trong những phiên xét xử này.

Trong tin thư Lifer-Line tháng 9 vừa qua, LSA đã nói rằng, “cho dù luật sư có giỏi đến đâu, nếu tù nhân tự mình thiếu chuẩn bị thì không có cơ hội thành công được thả ra. Trái lại, luật sư có đỡ đến đâu cũng không đánh chìm cơ hội của những tù nhân chuẩn bị kỹ càng.”

— Dịch giả: Dũng Trần

Homelessness is a serious problem for America's formerly incarcerated

By Vincent O'Bannon
Journalism Guild Writer

Homelessness is a serious problem for America's formerly incarcerated people, and it's even worse in the United Kingdom, published reports say.

In the United States there are approximately 700,000 individuals returning home from state prisons each year,

according to the Journal of Community Corrections. Nine-million are released from county jails annually. Ten percent of the individuals leaving or entering prisons and jails are homeless in the months preceding and following incarceration, the report said.

In the UK, 15% of prisoners reported being homeless at sentencing, compared to the

37% who registered homeless post-release. In 2018, there were 320,000 people homeless in Britain, reported *The Conversation.com*.

Figures from a 2017 analysis by the Housing Charity Shelter shows a 13,000 person rise in homelessness throughout the U.K., equivalent to one in every 200 people being homeless, the Nov. 4 article reported.

A 2012 study by the U.K.'s Ministry Of Justice reported that 37% of formerly incarcerated people have nowhere to live and that two-thirds of them will re-offend within a year.

"In my experience, housing is one of the most difficult needs to be met for returning ex-offenders upon release," Patricia McKernan reported in the Journal of Community Corrections.

The reasons given by the formerly incarcerated in the UK for their recidivism are: the loss of housing accommodations at the time of arrest, a failing judicial system that does little to combat homelessness, and inadequate resources post-release, *The Conversation.com* reported.

Unstable housing complicates all other targets of intervention for ex-offenders, said McKernan.

Incarcerated people are 10 times more likely to be homeless in the United States than the general public, reported the Prison Policy Initiative in August 2018.

Data from a Bureau of Justice Statistics survey showed that past incarceration and homelessness were directly linked, the Prison Policy report stated.

A hopeful sign for the formerly incarcerated in the U.K. was passage in 2018 of the Homelessness Reduction Act. It paved the way for local authorities to provide help to all homeless people, *The Conversation.com* reported.

Prior to the passage of the HRA, Britain's homeless legislation provided that the formerly incarcerated could not receive help from the local authorities, where they served their prison term unless they could prove a local connection, the report said.

Frequently in California parolees are sent back to the county where they were sentenced. San Quentin inmate Kerry Rudd's reaction was, "I don't want to go back to where I was arrested. Being

labeled a transient in Alameda County. I don't want to parole to my county of commitment. I want something different. The other part is that I don't have anything solid for where I want to go."

Another San Quentin resident said, "Well, to be honest, I'm scared that when I get released, I'll be homeless. I'm not from California, and I have no one in California.

Two hundred dollars gate money is not enough for me to just go back out into society and say, 'Alright, I'm ready to do it right this time.' I believe a lot of people are homeless because they have no family, fresh out of jail or prison with no support, and with mental illnesses."

Both men had these suggestions to improve their chances of a successful transition back into society: more proactive participation from the prisons, local government agencies, and programs aimed at the short-termed offender, just as there are targeted programs for lifers.

"I believe a lot of people are homeless because they have no family, fresh out of jail or prison with no support, and with mental illnesses"

"Excluding formerly incarcerated people from safe and stable housing has devastating side effects. It can reduce access to healthcare services (including addiction and mental health treatment), make it harder to secure a job, and prevent formerly incarcerated people from accessing educational programs," *PrisonPolicy.org* reported.

In the United States, there are an estimated 550,000 people homeless, many of which have some sort of criminal justice system contact, *PrisonPolicy.org* reported.

With the passage of Britain's Homeless Reduction Act, prisons are now required to inform the local authorities when someone deemed homeless is about to be released, and has made it obligatory for local authorities to provide help to (all) homeless people, whether they have a local connection or not, *TheConversation.com* report said.

A national survey of U.S. state parole agencies found that 60% had no housing assistance program for post-released individuals, the Prison Policy Initiative noted in 2006.

Potential solutions to homeless problems mentioned by advocates include:

- States should develop more efficient interagency systems to help formerly incarcerated people find homes.
- States should remove the systematic barriers that the formerly incarcerated face, such as, ending aggressive enforcement of quality-of-life ordinances which prohibits people from acquiring housing based on past criminal offenses.

- Systems like "Housing First" programs should be implemented that assure the formerly incarcerated will have a successful approach to reintegration into society.

- Expand social services, and provide reentry programs that are all-inclusive.

- States should mirror Utah's approach which has made it a budget priority to provide permanent housing for the chronically homeless. This approach acknowledges that stable living arrangements are necessary before people can address unemployment, illness, substance use disorders and other problems.

Florida aims at reducing recidivism

By Steve Brooks
Journalism Guild Writer

Florida has adopted major criminal justice reforms aimed at reducing recidivism, aiding crime victims and reducing prison populations.

"We are finally seeing this state change its approach to public safety to be 'smart on crime,'" said Aswad Thomas, a crime survivor. He is managing director of Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice, a national network of 30,000 crime survivors.

The reforms are contained in HB7125, the most expansive criminal justice reform bill adopted in over 20 years. It went into effect in October, *tampabay.com* reported Oct. 16.

The reforms seek to reduce recidivism by changing occupational licensing to help those

with criminal convictions become gainfully employed.

"We are finally seeing this state change its approach to public safety to be 'smart on crime,'"

It seeks to meet the needs of crime victims by increasing the amount of time victims can access recovery support for funerals, trauma counseling, mental health treatment, and access to compensation while police investigations into the crime are still on-going.

This is something Darla and Elliot Saunders from Tampa

say they needed desperately when their son was murdered 14 years ago.

The bill seeks to reduce probation violations to help alleviate overcrowded prison conditions.

Thomas wrote the article that concludes, "We see the changes contained in HB7125 as a beginning, not the end, of tackling these issues."

He also believes that, with the help of crime survivors, it brings new hope that lawmakers will change the state's system of court fines and fees, something other states are considering to help reduce the debt of those formally incarcerated.

According to Thomas, there are 45 other states that have policies that incentivize rehabilitation for those who are incarcerated, and almost all of them are seeing measurable reductions in recidivism.

Prison and Jail phones monitored by AI

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

A new artificial intelligence (AI) system targets key words and phrases during monitored phone calls from inside prisons and jails, according to an *ABC News* article.

Sheriffs' and wardens' nationwide use AI technology to aid in unsolved crimes such as drug smuggling, attempted suicides and violence in real time.

Legally mandated warnings precede every phone call to inform the patrons their call is being recorded. A vast amount of inmates still reveals incriminating information, according to data given to *ABC news* by the technology company.

"If I got to stay longer than November...I'm killing all of them when I get out...and I mean it," said one person during a phone call, according to the article.

Corrections officials in Alabama intercepted a phone call in which a prisoner instructed his wife on how to smuggle Suboxone, an opioid withdrawal aid, into the prison. He told her to first dilute it in water, then use a makeup brush to paint it on postcards to be mailed into the prison. This is just one of many situations in which inmates have made incriminating statements via a previously warned recorded call.

The AI systems in these cases utilized speech-recognition technology, semantic analytics and machine learning software. The system then builds an expanding database of searchable words, part of

a global revolution in neural networks, the article stated.

The prison phone system is a \$1.2 billion a year industry, according to data by the Prison Policy Initiative. It was also once used to track the locations of people called by the inmates until the U.S. Supreme court ruled that practice illegal.

"One of the biggest operational issues has been the lack of staffing to monitor every single call,"

LEO Technologies is the leader in this innovative technology and has its own investigation division outside of the prison system. This division feeds the databases with keywords, phrases and prison slang based on the region and area of the prison. LEO Technologies then promptly notifies its law enforcement partners if the system picks up phrasing or suspicious language. The technology is near real time and offers rapid response. The company states that it has thwarted dozens of attempted suicides the past two years over several states.

GTL and Securus, the nation's two largest providers of phone service to prisons and jails, are developing their own call analytics technologies. LEO, which contracts with GTL, is operating in five U.S.

states, according to company officials.

Prison pressing priorities are (1) controlling prison contraband, (2) inmate attacks on infrastructure security systems, and (3) unmonitored inmate communication. This data was provided by a National Institute of Justice study of our nation's nearly 7,000 correctional institutions. The data was published this year by the RAND Corporation, according to the article.

"One of the biggest operational issues that has plagued this industry of automated inmate telephone recording has been the lack of staffing to monitor every single call," said John Shaffer, a corrections technology expert. "And frankly, most inmate calls are innocuous."

"There (have) been different approaches over the years," he said. "I remember Walla Walla penitentiary out in the state of Washington used to have officers sitting there in the towers at night listening to inmate calls for hours and hours - and that was their solution. And it never really worked as an operational opportunity."

LEO Technologies' system can range in price, generally between \$500,000 and \$600,000 a year per 1,000 inmates monitored in the facility in which is installed.

Jails and prisons "are looking at this very seriously, and several are using it - trying to figure out the right balance and mix of human and technology," said Jonathan Thompson, executive director of the National Sheriff's Association.

Ruling makes more prisoners eligible for parole hearings under Proposition 57

By Kerry Rudd
Staff Writer

A new court ruling makes more prisoners eligible for parole hearings, according to the Second Appellate District's recent decision.

The ruling makes persons with violent convictions eligible for parole consideration under Prop. 57—if their crimes include a non-violent offense.

Previously, inmates with violent offenses were not given parole consideration even if they had a nonviolent offense that they were also serving time for. CDCR Title 15, subsection 3490(a) describes a "determinately-sentenced non-violent offender" through a system of exclusion. Six case factors are listed, which make an inmate ineligible for non-violent parole consideration. Factor #5 excludes an inmate from Prop. 57 eligibility if he or she is "currently serving a term of incarceration for a 'violent felony.'"

The court's ruling now allows violent offenders parole

consideration if they were also convicted of a non-violent felony offense and had served the full term of their primary offense.

Mohammad Mohammad was convicted of nine counts of second degree robbery, which are violent felonies under PC 667.5©. He was also convicted of six counts of receiving stolen property, which are non-violent felonies. He was deemed ineligible for parole eligibility due to his violent felony convictions.

Mohammad filed an unsuccessful administrative appeal to grieve his lack of eligibility. He then filed a writ of habeas corpus with the superior court. It was denied. He then petitioned the court of appeals with a writ of habeas corpus arguing that he should be eligible for Prop. 57 parole due to his base term being a receiving stolen property conviction. His petition was granted.

Section 32(a)(1) of the California Constitution makes early parole hearings available to "any person convicted of a non-violent felony offense"

upon completion of "the full term of his or her primary offense."

"The phrase 'a' nonviolent felony offense takes the singular form, which indicates it applies to an inmate so long as he or she commits 'a' single nonviolent felony offense—even if that offense is not his or her only offense," the court of appeals stated in their Nov. 26 publication.

The court relied heavily upon the text of Prop. 57. The plain meaning of the law's words compelled their decision.

New regulations are on the way. The Mohammed decision may set a precedent for cases throughout the state.

However, it's important to note that just because a person is eligible for a parole hearing under this new interpretation of the law does not mean he will be paroled. The parole board will take into account that person's full criminal history when determining whether he poses a risk to public safety.

Snippets

Cards to commemorate the first Valentine's Day were sent in 1415. The first card was credited to France's Duke of Orleans who sent a card to his beloved wife while imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Uncommitted lovers worldwide change their status more on Valentine's Day than any other day with more marriage proposals occurring on the day than any other day of the year.

Pleasure centers in the brain produce dopamine when one finds love which is the same effect as a high-powered pain killer.

Interamna (now a part of Italy) is where a bishop originated from and became one of the three saints honored for the traditional holiday.

Dating--speed dating was invented by Rabbi Yaacov Deyo in 1999 which popularized a longtime Jewish tradition of chaperoned gatherings of Jewish singles.

CROSSWORD

Edited by Jan Perry

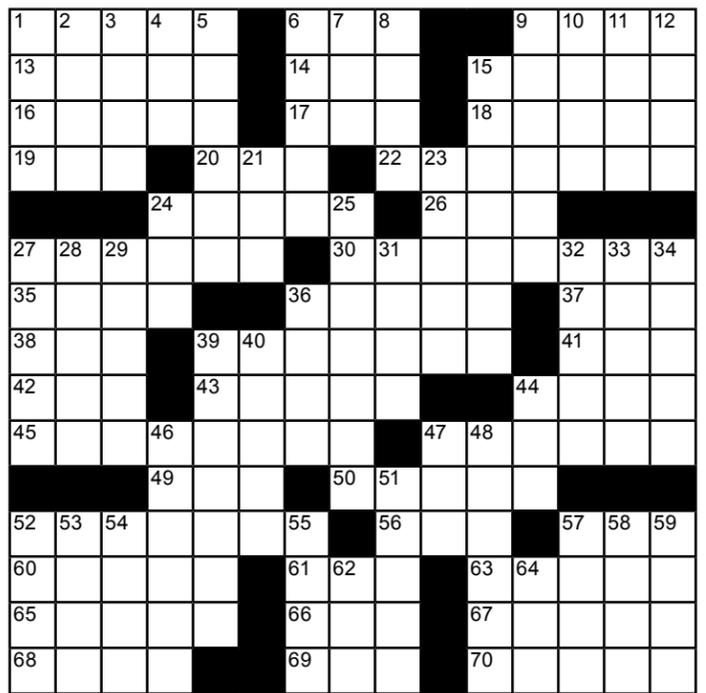
Same First/Last

Across

- Actor who starred on *The West Wing*
- '90s alternative rock band
- Peabody winner Michael of *Bay Area NBC Investigates*
- Type of footwear
- Woman's name
- Tape
- Deadly snake or a car model
- Regular
- An expression that means the opposite of the word's unusual sense
- Two (Sp)
- Japan P.M.
- Drinking holes
- Honda alternative
- Pacific* _____
- Politicos Abrams and Dash
- _____ meet
- Ray of *Fresh off the Boat*
- Ackerman of *The Heartbreak Kid*
- Talent
- "This feels so good"
- Actress who starred in *The Hateful Eight*
- Cartoon bartender
- Army meal (Abbr.)
- Shrub native to Europe
- Suvari of *American Pie*
- Country music band
- River in the E. Netherlands
- Man's name
- Denzel character
- Gym staff
- Mt. near SQ
- Government benefits (Abbr.)
- Berry of *X-Men*
- Lifesaver (Abbr.)
- Atmosphere
- 311 song
- Visit
- Jewish principle
- Ruler (historical)
- Cigarette residue
- Actor who starred as Superman on TV

Down

- Movie who starred the Muscles from Brussels
- Collection of musical numbers
- A, B, and C in medicine (Abbr.)
- Scottish refusal
- Actor who starred in *20,000 Years in Sing Sing*
- Dierks Bentley album
- City in Netherlands
- Damon or Dillon
- Ancient galley
- Bouquet
- Nashville st.
- Dolls or action figures
- Actress who starred in *Gone With the Wind*
- You get thrown under this
- Alan of *Little Miss Sunshine*
- Topnotch
- Person who collects
- _____ Thing
- Hair accessory
- Jacob's eighth son
- Lotion ingredient
- Identities
- Surveillance tool
- Giveaway
- Actress Winningham
- Actress who starred in *Alias*
- Actress Angelina
- '90s email account
- Author Norman
- Lyric: "____ Yankee Doodle Dandy"
- Actor who starred in *Rebel Without a Cause*
- Ocean mammal
- This and _____
- L.A. football team
- Jessica of *Sin City*
- Remainder
- Type of butter
- Partial
- Conflicted state
- ____ culpa (Lat.)
- Weed ingredient



By Jonathan Chiu



Last Issue's Answer

Sudoku Corner

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

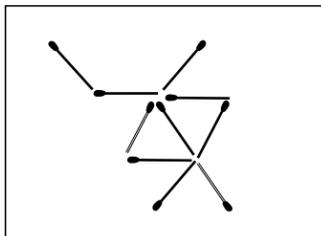
9	8	6	4	3	7	5	1	2
7	4	2	1	9	5	3	6	8
5	1	3	6	8	2	9	7	4
8	3	9	7	2	4	1	5	6
1	6	7	8	5	9	2	4	3
2	5	4	3	6	1	8	9	7
3	9	8	5	4	6	7	2	1
6	7	5	2	1	8	4	3	9
4	2	1	9	7	3	6	8	5

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

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

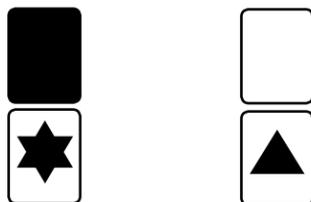
Last month's Brain Teasers answers

CHANGE THE RABBIT



Decorative Cards

1 and 3 must be turned. Most people turn 1 and 4 this is not correct. 1 must be turned; if it has a triangle the answer is yes; if not, it is no. 2 does not need to be turned. If 4 is turned black the answer is yes; if white, it is no. This does not help as it gives no information about 3. Card 3 needs to be turned to see if its other side is black. If it is black the answer is no; if white then it is yes. Therefore 1 and 3 must be turned.

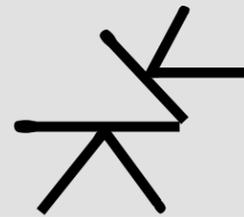


7 is a prime number, cross out all the A's and E's below; The square root of 625 is 25, cross out the I's and R's. If 0°C and 10°F are not the same so cross out the X's. What do you have left?
C A O X L E U E M I B R U X S E
COLUMBUS IS THE ANSWER

BRAIN TEASERS

MATCH STICK

Move two matchsticks to make three K's instead of just two.



Easy Equation

Correct this equation so that it makes sense by freely moving the given four digits but without introducing any additional mathematical symbols.

$$76=24$$

If seven valentine card makers can make seven valentine cards in one hour and forty minutes, how long does it take fourteen valentine card makers to make fourteen valentines ?

If you would like to submit a photograph to be placed in SQ News just because, please send it with name(s) and a brief message to go with your photo. Please understand, we will not be able to return your photo so send a copy and address the letter to:

San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964

Prison Truth: The Story of the *San Quentin News*

BOOK REVIEW

By **Juan Haines**
Senior Editor

Veteran journalist Ted Koppel got it right when he said William J. Drummond proves to be the right person to tell the tale of San Quentin News (SQN). Drummond's credibility as the storyteller comes from his long and eventful career as a journalist, UC Berkeley journalism professor and his once or twice a week venture inside the SQN newsroom office for

more than eight years to mentor incarcerated journalists.

Prison Truth: The Story of the San Quentin News, (2020) is a detailed account of the journey that led to SQN becoming a first-rate prisoner produced newspaper. The newspaper was reborn in 2008 after a 20-year hiatus. Maverick warden Robert Ayers, Jr. wanted to break down the rumor mill and give prisoners trustworthy information about life at the Q.

Since then, SQN has been honored with an award for "extraordinary journalism" by the Society of Professional Journal-

ists and written about by at least five major newspapers.

Drummond began his own relationship with SQN in mid-2012 by holding a college class in the newsroom. Since then more than 80 of his students have helped incarcerated journalists develop and structure their stories before handing them over to the more than half-dozen advisers. At SQN, the advisers, who are professional journalists, do the final editing and proofing and have done so since its 2008 resurgence.

Drummond has witnessed the monthly paper go to press in spite of major limitations:

no internet access, slow access to outside sources, no smart phones and a literal wall that keeps the staffers away from the community. Drummond notes, "What is lacking in convenience is made up for with grit and determination."

Much of the grit and determination came from SQN's third editor in chief, the late Arnulfo Timoteo Garcia, who frequently spoke about how Federal Judge Thelton Henderson impacted him. After Henderson had visited San Quentin in the summer of 2010, he urged Garcia to invite as many people as possible to come inside San Quentin to see the rehabilitative efforts of the prisoners.

Garcia followed that advice by inviting judges, district attorneys, county sheriffs, state and federal lawmakers to attend and participate in San Quentin forums—we've now had more than two dozen of them—where prisoners talk about their incarceration experience, rehabilitative efforts and reentry plans.

The forums, modeled after restorative justice circles, give the outside public safety officials an authentic and intimate view of prisons and its occupants.

As a direct result of the forums, San Francisco district attorneys created a Formerly Incarcerated Advisory Board. Newly elected District Attorney Chesa Boudin said that he intends to keep the board.

Prison Truth examines the advantages of having stories told by people directly affected by incarceration. The resulting news narratives are from the vantage point of embedded reporters.

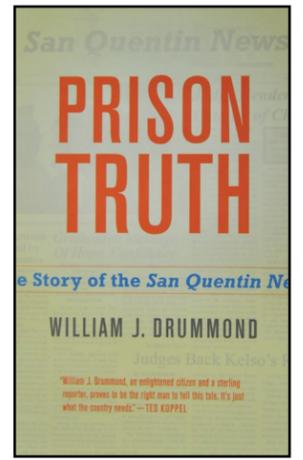
One of the newspaper's original mandates is to scrutinize programs designed for rehabilitation.

"Accountability interviews," ones in which incarcerated people talk about what they did to land in prison, appear regularly. The stories not only teach by example, they reveal the resilience of the human spirit. For prisoners who are committed to rehabilitation, the articles serve as guides.

Prison officials recognize these benefits so it's not surprising that the newspaper and its staff writers have gained the support of an assortment of public safety officials.

Drummond asks, "Are the inmate staff's efforts journalism? The question he poses is bold, because traditionally, journalism has been viewed as impartial and objective without an advocacy role. So, if it isn't traditional journalism, is what we are doing worth it? He concludes in the affirmative: "I believe journalism is an effective tool for rehabilitating people in prison...Journalism places an additional burden on writers: What they write must be accurate, true, and above all fair."

I can attest to Drummond's claim. I have learned that when



incarcerated people read stories about redemption, recovery and returning to the community, they are inspired to do the same.

I have heard free people talk about the ways that articles in SQN have changed their own incarcerated loved ones. I've also heard free people talk about how heartening it is, for the first time, to read positive words about their sons, fathers, brothers, husbands and boyfriends.

I have witnessed children reunite with parents and incarcerated men drop gangs, dope and bad behavior after taking advantage of available programs to reunite with their families. So, is what we do good journalism?

Prison Truth gives readers the chance to answer this question.

Rock guitarist Craig Bartock shares his talent in prison

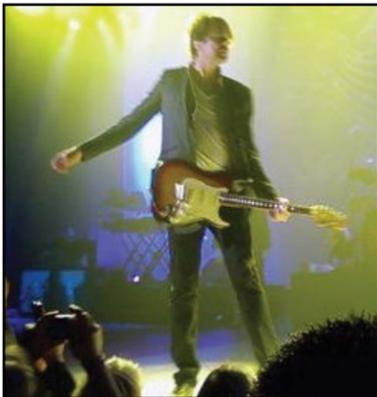


Photo courtesy of Craig Bartock

Guitarist Craig Bartock

By **Kevin D. Sawyer**
Associate Editor

Rock guitarist Craig Bartock, who plays for the band Heart, earned a star for coming to prison. In December he visited the Thursday afternoon guitar workshop sponsored by the William James Association and taught by Kurt Huget.

One of the many treats participants get out of attending the guitar workshop is meeting great musicians like Bartock, who gave the men advice and showed them a few tricks on the guitar.

"The most important part of playing the guitar is having fun," Bartock said to the nine students in attendance. Their skill levels ranged from beginner to advanced. "Just enjoy playing the guitar is the best thing I can tell you."

The class and Huget strummed chords to the song "Let The Good Times Roll," and Bartock joined in casually, firing off lead guitar licks and improvised rhythms. Afterward, he answered a variety of questions.

"I'm a Fender Tele-Strat kind of guy," said Bartock, when asked what kind of guitars he plays. "I prefer playing electric guitar." Then he showed the class a few more licks as he played an Arts in Corrections black Fender Squire Stratocaster through a small Fender amplifier that he dialed in to get the tones needed to make his impression.

"I use a Vox AC 30 amplifier," said Bartock. "I think they're like the perfect amplifier for rock." His taste in instruments and equipment comes from playing guitar for what he said has been more than 50 years.

Bartock didn't look old enough to be a musician for half a century; dressed in a black hoodie, black shirt, black pants, brown boots wearing tinted glasses that matched his brown hair. His years playing easily connects

his longevity to the time when rock legends such as Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones ruled the airwaves.

"I got so excited about the class today, I almost forgot to sign in," said Louis Calvin whose been playing guitar for almost two years.

Because some of the men in the workshop were beginning guitar students, Bartock discussed the importance of a guitar's "action" (the height of the strings from the fret board) and the gauge of strings when performing. He said he uses medium strings (9 to 11 gauge) on electric guitar but heavy and medium can vary from electric to acoustic guitar.

"You can never go wrong playing on an acoustic because it builds up your fingers," said Bartock. He said he plays a 12-string acoustic guitar, and when touring he takes 14 guitars on the road with him that are cared for by a guitar technician, who keeps them tuned and maintains his amplifiers.

Bartock explained alternate guitar tunings like drop-D tuning (D, A, D, G, B, E) and double drop-D tuning (D, A, D, G, B, D). Then he used a ball point pen to demonstrate how to play slide guitar blues songs using those tunings. He said musicians Richie Havens and Joni Mitchell use these alternate tunings.

One of the students asked about the hit song "Barracuda" by Heart. Bartock answered the question by showing the class how to play the opening galloping rhythm of the song using the "power chords" E, F sharp, and G ending on two harmonics. He explained the usefulness of bar chords and variations of them on the neck of the guitar.

Huget discussed some of the songs the class was working on. Then the class and Huget played "The Joker" by the Steve Miller Band, followed by "Ramblin' Man" by the Allman Brothers as Bartock played lead guitar.

The questions kept coming, and at one point Bartock was asked to repeat a lick he did in passing on the song "The Wind Cries Mary" by Hendrix. He also demonstrated how Hendrix used his thumb to play bass lines on chords to get a unique sound from bar chords leaving the G string to ring open.

When asked about playing the bass, Bartock said "The best thing to do is lock in with the drummer." Huget then played a blues rhythm on the guitar as Bartock played a bass line to demonstrate for the class.

Bartock's visit turned out to be a crash course in equipment, guitar playing and on-the-road touring with other bands. He discussed audiences, monitor mixes, the loudness of music during shows and how "so many musicians are almost deaf."

"It's like three companies coming together for a show and going their separate ways," Bartock said when describing a tour. "Sometimes you don't hear the audience" with the in-ears headphones, he said adding, "It's really easy to let your mind wander," but "You can save your hearing so much better."

"It's a real pleasure to have him come in and share his talent," said Huget, who occasionally brings in guests to inspire the men.

Bartock was cool and laid back. Unlike some newer young artists, he wasn't pretentious and didn't put on any airs. Over the decades, he's seen it all. It wasn't his first time visiting San Quentin. He's performed at shows here with the organization Bread & Roses.

"Hey, man, I love it," said Bartock. "I'll be back."



Photo courtesy of Craig Bartock

Guitarist Craig Bartock



NEWS BRIEFS

USA — Private prison companies GEO and Core-Civic are being sued for forcing detainees in their private prisons to work for free, or, in some cases, \$1 per day. Refusal to comply is met with threats of punishment and deprivation of basic necessities. The lawsuits began in 2014 and were filed in federal courts from Washington to Georgia, *Mother Jones* reports.

Nashville, Tenn. — Lee Hall, 53, was executed December 5, 2019 by electric chair, *USA Today* reports. Hall was the 138th person put to death in Tennessee since 1916, and the sixth inmate executed since the state resumed capital punishment in August 2018. He is believed to be only the second legally blind death row inmate executed since the U.S. reinstated the death penalty in 1976.

Ohio — Republican Gov. Mike DeWine announced last December a way to simplify and expedite the pardon process for rehabilitated one-time offenders who have led model lives for at least a decade following release from prison, *The Columbus Dispatch* reports. Qualified applicants' cases will be forwarded to the Ohio Parole Board for expedited pardon recommendations from years to within six months.

Pelican Bay — More than a dozen men tell stories about their incarceration lives and the transformations they made on a new podcast, *Unlocked*. The first episode gave each member of the production team a chance to introduce himself as well as interspersed excerpts from one-on-one interviews and panel discussions.

Ohio — Republican Gov. Mike DeWine said last February that Ohio "certainly could have no executions" while a search for obtainable, allowable drugs was underway. State lawmakers are contemplating becoming the 21st state to abolish the death penalty as the costs of having a death penalty that can't be carried out is a major concern, the *Dayton Daily News* reports. Current state law only allows for lethal injection as an execution method.

Ohio — Formerly incarcerated Harley Blakeman, who graduated from Ohio State University with a business degree, recently started *honestjobs.co* to help companies connect with other formerly incarcerated people seeking work, *The Columbus Dispatch* reports.

Louisiana — About 15 % of the state's prison population consists of people serving life without parole—the highest percentage in the US. Those numbers are the result of sentencing laws enacted decades ago — including mandatory minimums and a 1979 decision from state legislators to abolish parole for all life sentences, *The Advocate* reports.

Colorado — State prison officials want to reopen a prison that shut down in 2013 when the prison population dropped and the state moved away from the use of solitary confinement. The new plan is to end a contract with a privately run prison.

New Jersey — Gov. Phil Murphy signed a bill last December that allows undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license, the National Review reports. "Expanding access to driver's licenses is critical for the safety of New Jerseyans and a step toward building a stronger and fairer New Jersey for all," the governor said in a statement. "Allowing residents the opportunity to obtain driver's licenses regardless of their immigration status will decrease the number of uninsured drivers and increase safety on our roads."

State prosecutors not complying with *Brady Law*

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Thousands of people have gone to prison or face criminal charges based on questionable testimony from law enforcement officers, *USA Today* reports.

"At least 300 prosecutors' offices are not taking steps necessary to comply with the Supreme Court mandate" that prosecutors must tell anyone accused of a crime about all evidence that might

help their defense at trial, the newspaper reported Oct. 17.

"That includes sharing details about police officers who have committed crimes, lied on the job or whose honesty has been called into doubt," the story stated.

The newspaper reported its investigation found that many police departments and prosecutors failed to track problem officers. The investigation partners included the Invisible Institute.

The year-long probe in thousands of counties measured compliance with the 1963 *Brady v. Maryland* Supreme Court decision.

That decision resulted when prosecutors did not reveal to John L. Brady his crime partner had confessed to committing the murder in which John had been charged. This omission of information should have been part of the discovery given to defendants prior to trial, the decision said.

Because Brady's crime partner admitted he had done actual killing, the Supreme Court ruled this omission of discovery denied Brady due process as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution's 14th amendment. The ruling is an extension of *Mooney v. Holohan*, 294 U.S., where the court ruled that nondisclosure by a prosecutor violates due process.

The story refers to the case of Revat Vara, who was pulled over in 2006 by a Houston police officer for a missing license plate. Vara passed a sobriety test, but police officer William Lindsey said otherwise. At trial, jurors were told about Vara's two previous DWIs. What jurors were not told was that officer Lindsey had been found guilty of misconduct by his department 35 times, and was investigated for padding his overtime by manipulating DWI arrests so he would be called to testify.

Vara's case came down to one man's word against an-

other, and the jury believed Officer Lindsey. Because of prior convictions, Vara was sentenced to 25 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, his attorney said.

Places that do not track dishonest or untrustworthy officers include large cities such as Chicago and Little Rock, and small venues such as Jackson County, Minn., and Columbia County, Pa.

In some places that keep lists, police and prosecutors refuse to make them public. *USA Today* identified at least 1,200 officers with proven histories of lying and other serious misconduct, who had not been flagged by prosecutors. It reported 261 officers were specifically disciplined for dishonesty on the job.

The National Registry of Exonerations shows that cases overturned because of perjury and misconduct by prosecutors or police more than doubled from 2008 to 2018.

Police unions are especially outspoken opponents

to Brady requirements, the story said. The union representing Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies went to court to stop the department from disclosing 300 officers with misconduct histories. The California State Supreme Court ruled against the deputies in August.

Twenty-five Baltimore officers were investigated last year because of misconduct charges, the newspaper noted. Baltimore prosecutors recently began asking the courts to vacate nearly 800 convictions that involved questionable testimony.

Since 1988, data from the National Registry of Exoneration shows 987 people have been convicted, then exonerated, in cases involving a combination of official misconduct by prosecutors and perjury or a false statement by police or other witnesses. The 987 unlawfully convicted spent an average of 12 years behind bars, according to *USA Today*.

Formerly incarcerated training for conflict resolution

By William Earl Tolbert
Journalism Guild Writer

Formerly incarcerated people are getting trained in San Francisco in the art of conflict resolution in a neighborhood notorious for homelessness and street crime.

Graduates of the St. Anthony's Foundation program are then offered jobs patrolling Tenderloin sidewalks, reported the *San Francisco Examiner* on Nov. 10.

"Client Safety Services started with the idea that instead of enforcing rules or laws or calling the police all the time on behavior, we have a relationship with the folks where we are meeting them where they are at. We are trying to provide safety for all parties involved," said St. Anthony's Advocacy Program Manager Calder Lorenz.

Seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. the program's employees are paid \$20 an hour to walk or ride Segways to roust and direct homeless people to public services.

The program is a sympathetic replacement to the police being alerted to homeless individuals using drugs, sitting and sleeping in the vicinity of businesses.

Employees are taught how to administer the opioid antidote Narcan. They're also certified to carry handcuffs and make "citizen's arrests" in accordance with Penal Code 837.

Approximately 40 employees strong, St. Anthony's has recently contracted out its security force to other organization and business in the Tenderloin section at roughly \$35 a hour.

"We are trying to provide safety for all parties involved,"

"What we're seeing is multiple organizations and businesses hiring through a single contract and identifying which area on the block supports the work or via an agreement with the safety block groups," Lorenz told the *Examiner*.

"We wanted to create a blueprint that the Tenderloin neighborhood or other parts of the City would be interested in using, so a curriculum was set up."

The *Examiner* interviewed six Tenderloin community members, and all felt harassed by the program's employees.

A 61-year-old community member identified as Mike told the *Examiner* he felt threatened by the program's employees patrolling the block in front of the Christian Science Church on O'Farrell Street.

"It's a mystery to me why someone like him thinks he's got the authority to run everybody off a sidewalk no matter what they are doing, and to threaten you physically like he's going to fight you if you don't," said Mike.

A program employee identified as Charles said, "We are basically up here to prevent the guys (from) being a nuisance here, (those) leaving trash and needles (and) smoking drugs or stuff like that - that's what we are up here to do."

David Knego, executive director of the Curry Senior Center on Turk Street, said his staff felt overwhelmed by the drug dealing and other safety issues outside of the center.

"One of our nurses got assaulted in the neighborhood store," said Knego. "I thought we had to do something."

Campaign under way to raise the age for criminal prosecution

By Vincent E. O'Bannon
Journalism Guild Writer

A campaign is under way to increase from 18 to 20 the age where young people accused of crimes are processed as juveniles instead of adults.

"Young adults would benefit more from the juvenile system and early diversion programs than adult incarceration," said Stephanie James, president of the Chief Probation Officers of California. "Such diversion programs have proven successful, and have been used for decades."

The plan is to introduce legislation in 2020 in an effort to see more juveniles benefitting from rehabilitative programs, the *Chronicle of Social Change* reported on Dec. 12.

Researchers have reported that a person's brain is still developing between the ages of 18 and 24, the story said. That group makes up 10% of the U.S. population.

"We've been working on this for almost a year. We want to build on what works and what has been successful. (It's about) evolving, el-

evating, keeping the things that we're trying to expand on... that's really at the heart of what we're trying to build on," said Karen Pank, CPOC executive director.

Young people are prone to be more impulsive, less future-oriented, volatile in emotionally charged settings; and highly susceptible to peer and outside influences, according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Between 75 and 95% of system-involved youth "exhibit symptoms of trauma due to exposure to violence," the article noted.

The plan is opposed by the San Francisco-based Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Its executive director, Daniel Macallair, said the change is "just a strategy to fill the juvenile halls."

Juvenile halls in California are operating now at about 25% of capacity, said Macallair.

The proposal, called the Elvate Justice Act, would also seal more juvenile records, require probation departments to petition for termination of probation, and expand probation-supervised restorative

justice programs, the article noted.

"They're right at the threshold where they're starting to close juvenile justice halls and promote community reinvestment. Raising the age to 20 would ensure that the juvenile justice system preserves itself, and everybody stays happy, under the illusion that there's some progressive reform," Macallair said.

"The state legislature has placed a great emphasis on brain development in recent years as it has pursued a bevy of juvenile justice reforms, and I believe that any proposal that recognizes the difference in the brain development of juveniles and adults is worth full discussion," said Reginald Jones-Sawyer Sr., Democratic chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

Jones-Sawyer also reported he believes that punishment should be our last resort for juveniles.

Juveniles in county-run facilities have dropped from a high of about 4,000 to about 800 youth over the past 15 years, according to data from the Board of State and Community Corrections.

Prison law libraries provide inadequate access to legal resources

By Alfred King
Journalism Guild Writer

Across the country, prisoners and their advocates contend that prison law libraries provide inadequate access to legal resources, according to an article by *Law360*.

The United States Supreme Court established that prisons must provide inmates with "adequate law books or adequate assistance from persons trained in the law" in the 1977 case *Bounds v. Smith*. But, most states provide only limited, local and outdated materials, and even those can be difficult to obtain.

Anders Ganten, a Lexis-Nexis executive in charge of providing electronic legal resources to departments of corrections, testified in a South Dakota federal court that prisoners are often restricted to legal opinions from their own state and only from their state's su-

preme court and its federal court jurisdictions,

Wisconsin prisoner Gregory Tucker filed a lawsuit in the state of Wisconsin alleging that the state considers law library access a "leisure activity." Tucker had to apply for a special pass to use the library, which he said hindered his access to resources he had a right to use.

But, a 1996 Supreme Court decision, *Lewis v. Casey*, makes it difficult to challenge the adequacy of a prison's law library. The decision states that a prisoner must prove that a specific shortfall in a prison library hindered his or her case.

Tucker lost his case. In its decision the court said, "The plaintiff has not alleged any facts indicating that he is suffering anything more than an inconvenience in being allowed to go to the prison library only once a week," according to *Law360*.

States often cut corners to satisfy *Bounds v. Smith* while spending as little money as possible. South Dakota, for example, got rid of its old system of providing a contract lawyer to inmates, and instead now provides inmates with tablets, which saves about \$200,000.

Despite the fact that South Dakota inmates lack both physical libraries and trained professionals, the tablets will provide them greater access to resources than those in many other states. Tablets, provided they are functional and haven't been confiscated, allow access to law library data bases 24/7.

Margo Schlanger, a civil rights expert at the University of Michigan Law School, believes access to courts for prisoners would improve if federal and state authorities adopt common guidelines and set universal standards for law library materials, hours of operation and other procedures.

Anti-semitic judge frequently used racial slurs

By Brian Corder
Journalism Guild Writer

A Jewish Death Row prisoner's execution won a reprieve after allegations that the trial judge was anti-Semitic and frequently used racial slurs.

The reprieve came six days before the scheduled execution of Randy Halprin, *The Associated Press* reported. Halprin was a member of the "Texas 7," a group that escaped from a South Texas prison in 2000.

The "Texas 7" committed numerous robberies; one resulted in the death of Irving Police Officer Aubrey Hawkins, who was shot 11 times. As officers closed in, one of the seven killed himself just before the six-week manhunt ended in Colorado. The

remaining six, including Halprin, were convicted of killing Hawkins and sentenced to death.

Halprin claims his trial judge, Vickers Cunningham, used racial slurs and anti-Semitic language to refer to Halprin and the other "Texas 7" prisoners.

He was scheduled to receive a lethal injection on Oct. 10, 2019. However, The Texas Court of Appeals granted a stay of execution on Oct. 4, 2019. The appellant court vacated the decision and remanded Halprin's case back to the Dallas County court that convicted him, with instructions to review his claim of the trial judges' biased against Halprin for being Jewish.

He is seeking a new trial. One of Halprin's attorneys, Tivon Schardl, said in

a statement, "Today's decision to stay Randy Halprin's scheduled execution is a signal that bigotry and bias are unacceptable in the criminal justice system."

As it relates to California, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reports there are 2,721 people on Death Row as of October 2018. By halting the Death Penalty in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom's moratorium affected more than a quarter of the country's Death Row prisoners. California's Death Row population is 737 prisoners.

As of May 2019, the United States had executed 1,476 since 1976, according to the *Washington Post*. Meanwhile, 162 Death Row prisoners have been exonerated.

Hit Squad: “Now? They respect our game”



Photo by Adamu Chan, First Watch

Anthony Torres (#22) and Brian Corder (#19) and the rest of the squad

By Aaron Taylor
Sports Editor

Anthony Torres (#22) loves sports. In 2019, he formed an SQ Intramural League team called “Free Bands.” Starting 0-4, they didn’t get their first win until they defeated the winless Knicks, coached by Rahsaan

‘New York’ Thomas. After that, the team changed their name to “Hit Squad,” and advanced to the final round of three of the 2019 playoffs. Although the Intramural League ended without a champion, Torres sat down for this interview during their playoff run to talk about the team, respect, and his

personal evolution as a person and a competitor.

Q: In the beginning, with exception of Brian Corder (#19) and Derrick Gray (not pictured), no one on your team played for the SQ Kings or SQ Warriors. Now, you have Jaredy ‘Deep Ball’ Newton of the SQ Kings and Kia’Endre ‘Big Baby’ Arrington of the

SQ Warriors. Did they change the chemistry of the team or was it coaching from Jerry Brown? (SQ News Sept. 2019 for Jerry Brown interview)

AT: It was some of both. Q: But, you were on the team as a player. Then, you stepped back and became more of a general manager. Explain that.

AT: I wanted to play, but, I started feeling like people didn’t respect us. I stepped back because I heard about Coach JB. I went to him asked for his help. I’ll do whatever it takes – including coming out of jersey – because I wanna win. So, I gave up part of the responsibility and became JB’s student. But, it’s still my creation, and I’m proud of where we are.

Q: How long have you been involved in sports?

AT: My whole life.

Q: Is this the first prison where you had a chance to be involved in interracial sports?

AT: No, at Pleasant Valley on the Level III, we played interracial sports as well. My first team was the Warriors football team; we won in 2017.

Q: So what kind of self-help groups have you taken during this incarceration?

AT: CGA (Criminals and Gangsters Anonymous), NA (Narcotics Anonymous), GoGi (Getting Out by Going In) all while at Pleasant Valley. Here at The Q, I’m a part of SQUIRES.

Q: What’s different about being at The Q in relation to your first term in prison?

AT: The environment and the individuals are way different than I’m used to; it wasn’t too many Black dudes because of the ‘valley fever’ issue at Pleasant

Valley. There was more politics my first term. I was on a Level III... the point system changed, so I became a higher security risk and that’s where the politics became more serious. Now, my points dropped after seven months, so I’m here at The Q. No write ups, and I’m programming. I’m closer to home at The Q (Hayward), more visits!

Q: I can feel that. There’s a kid out there that’s going to read this interview... this kid, male or female, is thinking about joining a gang; talk directly to that person and speak truth to them.

AT: Don’t give up your dreams for a decision that forces you to grow up. Enjoy your time as kid. I was once that kid and I was told to make realistic decisions, not fleeting ones.

Q: I want to thank you for sitting down for this interview. Do you have a closing statement?

AT: I thank everybody who supports me and has accepted me here at The Q. Those who’ve embraced me, helped me be involved in multiple programs and groups as well as the sports programs. Shout out to my team Hit Squad and lets go Raiders! Super Bowl!

(Unfortunately, the Raiders didn’t make the playoffs. You can see the Raiders in Las Vegas in 2020.)

The Big One That Got Away

Winning “The Big One” and being successful in a sports career aren’t the same thing.

Sound confusing? It’s not.

There are players in all sports who have had successful careers, however, they haven’t won “The Big One.” Think of Jim Kelly and the Buffalo Bills. This team went to four straight Super Bowls – a record that no other team has duplicated in the NFL – yet, they lost four straight times.

Admit it: if you were watching the Bills in the ‘90s, you were cheering for them to win the fourth time they made it, C’mon, be honest.

There’s also Fran Tarkenton and the Purple People Eaters (Minnesota Vikings) of the ‘70s. They went to four Super Bowls too, yet, never won.

In contrast, Trent Dilfer won a Super Bowl with the Baltimore Ravens.

If you’re thinking “Who the hell is Trent Dilfer?” then

that’s the point. The 2001 Ravens defense was voted as the second best in the history of the NFL behind the ‘85 Bears.

You think football prognosticators are saying “Yeah! Trent Dilfer won that Super Bowl!” Uh, not exactly. True, he was the QB but it was the Ravens’ defence that really won the 34-7 game against the New York Giants. It’s more like a sports trivia question.

“I got one for you: Who was the quarterback for Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl XXXV?”

“Wasn’t that the year (2001) that Ray Lewis got away with murder?”

“Yeah, he did. But, who was that quarterback?” Look it up.

(Cue Final Jeopardy theme music.) Think of all the NBA players that were denied a championship, thanks to Air Jordan and the Bulls in the 1990s: Phoenix Suns, Seattle Supersonics, Utah Jazz and Portland Trailblazers all had

guaranteed Hall of Famers on their rosters, yet, all went down in flames to the Bulls. Not to mention the teams in the Eastern Conferences that were bulldozed (no pun intended) by Jordan.

There were successful careers, yet, didn’t win “The Big One.”

Two-time NBA champion and #7 on the all-time NBA assist leader Isaiah ‘Zeke’ Thomas refused to shake Jordan’s hand after the Pistons lost to the Bulls in the Eastern Conference finals in the ‘90-‘91 season.

Yeah, that cost Thomas – one of best point guards of his era – a spot on the Dream Team in the 1992 Olympics.

Indiana Pacer Reggie Miller – the Knick Killer – is #2 All-Time 3-Point Field Goals Attempted; #9 All-Time Minutes Played & Games Played; #10 on the All-Time free throw percentage. He was also chosen as one the 50 Greatest Players of the 20th century. Who’s going to say

Reggie Miller didn’t have a successful career?

In 1993, the Montreal Canadians faced off against the L.A. Kings in the Stanley Cup Finals. Kings defenseman Robert Taylor had an 18-year career in the NHL. He’d never had a finals appearance until his last season as a player in 1993 with the L.A. Kings.

The Kings got Wayne Gretzky from the Edmonton Oilers in 1989, a blockbuster signing at the time. Here are his all-time statistics:

- Most goals in a season: ‘81-‘82: 92; ‘82-‘83: 71; ‘83-‘84: 87, with the Oilers.
- All-time regular season scoring leader with 894 goals, 1,963 assists and 2,857 points.
- 9-time Hart Memorial (MVP) Trophy winner, ‘80-‘87, ‘89 Oilers.
- 2-time Conn Smythe (MVP) Trophy winner, ‘88, Oilers.
- Lady Byng Memorial (Most Gentlemanly) Trophy winner, ‘91 L.A. Kings.

- 10-time Art Ross Trophy (Point Scoring Leader), ‘81-‘87, Oilers; ‘90-‘91, ‘94 Kings.

Yes that Wayne Gretzky. All hockey fans – Kings fans or not – wanted to see Taylor get a chance to lift up Lord Stanley’s Cup and make a circuit around the ice.

It wasn’t his destiny. The Kings’ loss and Taylor’s opportunity to hoist The Cup passed him by.

Taylor’s career is still stellar and successful.

(If you’re wondering how a Black man from L.A. knows so much about hockey, you can thank Intellevision, Atari, Nintendo and Genesis for their hockey games back in the ‘80s and ‘90s.)

Many players across North American sports haven’t won “The Big One.” Even so, that doesn’t mean that they weren’t successful.

Sports wisdom: “Winners make adjustments, and losers make excuses.”

There’s some truth in that statement. However, success isn’t always about winning.

Success is about playing the game the right way.

Success is uplifting your opponent when you win.

Success is recognizing that to become a champion, you had to defeat someone who was striving for the same goal.

Success is a handshake after the contest.

Success has no need to denigrate the defeated.

Success is congratulating those who had a better game than you that day.

Success is giving your all and leaving it on the ice/court/field/diamond.

Success is knowing that you did everything you could, whether you won or lost.

Success is an attribute that we need more of in our professional, collegiate, high school and yes, even inside of the prison sports culture.

That’s how you win “The Big One.”

—By Aaron Taylor

An unusual family visit at San Quentin

On the first day of 2020, Marion Wickerd --wife of 1000 Mile Club member Tommy Wickerd—shared a special moment with her husband of 15 years: The Wickerds were spending a family visit together at The Q.

However, instead of watching the New Year’s Day Rose Parade on television, the two were going to watch to the 4th Annual San Quentin New Year’s “Buddy Bar” Half Marathon.

“I’ve never awakened on a New Year’s Day in prison,” Marion said. “It’s definitely and, I must say, I’m one happy gal to be here at good ole San Quentin at the start of a new decade.”

Marion said she was just as excited as she would’ve been watching the iconic Boston Marathon.

Tommy put on his SQ 1000 Mile Club hat, while his wife put on her 26.2 to Life hoodie, and they stood in the family visiting area and looked through three sets of fencing to watch the runners line up to start the run. Marion held on to her husband’s arm tightly, watching and waiting as an alarm delayed the start time. After the alarm, the half marathon began, and Tommy did a running commentary for his wife.

“I recognized Rahsaan ‘New York’ Thomas and Jonathan Chiu from the

documentary ‘26.2 to Life’ sizzle reel. There were other runners that my husband pointed out to me, explaining their running techniques and strategies. I felt like I knew them all,” she said.

The Wickerds, standing in the small outdoor yard set aside for family visits, cheered the runners on, encouraging them together.

“Tommy was trying to show me where the ‘Field of Dream’ scoreboard was, so I could orientate myself to where they hang their banner during their running events,” she said. “Honestly, I was so thrilled to be sharing something with Tommy that he loves. His heart belongs to me, but I also know

that there was a part of him that wanted to be running with his ‘Band of Brothers’ that day. I was so lucky to be a part of and actually participate in something that makes my husband a part of who he is. I just want to thank everyone that took part in the run that day.”

The Wickerd’s both said that the day was one that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Thank you to Tommy and Marion Wickerd for sharing part of their family visit with *San Quentin News* sports department. Marion Wickerd contributed to this story.

—By Aaron Taylor

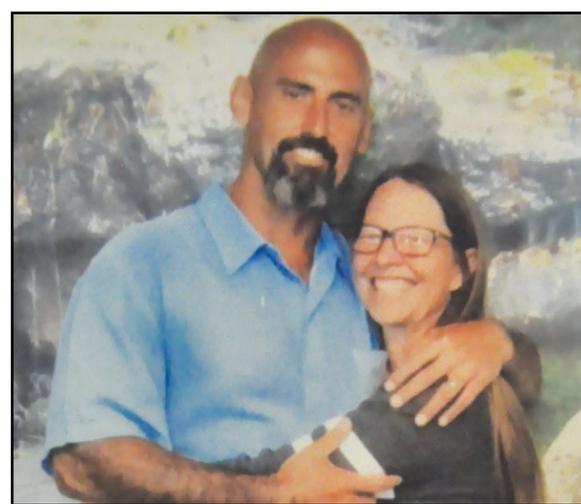


Photo courtesy of Tommy Wickerd

In-Depth: Thaddeus Fleeton

By Aaron Taylor
Sports Editor

Thaddeus Fleeton is nicknamed "The Beast" because of his offensive low-post game and his intense physicality defensively.

He is, arguably, one of the best undersized big men that I've seen in my 25 years inside CDCR.

He was born in Mobile, Ala., and came to San Francisco in 1965 at the age of two.

Thad had to work his way down from higher security levels to reach the Q, while others have come straight to San Quentin without spending time at the higher security designations, where violence is a way of life, Thad has spent time on some of the most violent and racially volatile facilities in the state, but as you're about to discover, that didn't change who he is at his core.

AT: You – like many of us – came into the system when learning self-discipline was a matter of life and death; how did you transfer those lessons over to basketball?

TF: Well, first it was knowing my surroundings, who I'm playing against. Keeping in mind that at any moment, a foul could easily turn into an assault.

AT: Did you play ball on the higher levels as well?

TF: Yeah, at New & Old Folsom, Calaptaria Corcoran, Salinas Valley and Kern Valley. All Level IV's.

AT: I heard that you are a boxer; talk about the sweet science and how you got involved.

TF: When I was seven, I had made a clay ashtray for my father at school. On the way home, A 15-year-old dude took my ashtray. I tried to fight him, but he was too big. I went home to my pops and my uncle -- who had just returned from Vietnam -- and asked them to teach me how to fight bigger guys. The next year, a 12-year-old boy slapped my sister and I beat the crap out of him. My dad then walked me over to the

Boys Club and introduced me to Sonny Carter and Johnny Keys –two ex-pro fighters. I fell in love with the road work and structure; however, I struggled with the discipline. They stayed in my ear and eventually I went to the Junior Golden Gloves in 1979.

AT: What happened after that? Seems like you were moving in the right direction at this point.

TF: I was, but at the same time I was gaining a rep as a street fighter. So the struggle became do I want to fight in the ring or the street? I saw the boxing circuit, the fighters with the clothes, money, cars and all that, and I wanted it. But, it was taking too long so I wanted a shortcut, which took me to street fighting.

AT: Wait, let's go back to your sister; tell me about what your parents told you and how that took you to being a street fighter.

TF: My parents told me to protect the females. Yet, I took it a step further: I protected them, the nerds and even the boys that couldn't fight. That eventually led me to getting paid to beat people up, protecting my neighborhood. I didn't ask for money though. I was getting paid with food, which built up trust in the neighborhood for me. When I did do wrong, the neighborhood would protect me from law enforcement. Also, I had went to the local stores and told them, "What if I can stop people from stealing outta your store? You don't have to pay me nothing, just hide me from the police if I need it." And they did it. Now that I reflect back, this is how I developed my criminal thinking and behavior.

AT: I think everyone can appreciate how honest you are. Okay, you've been with the SQ Kings, barring injuries, since your arrival. How has playing against outside competition helped you develop holistically?

TF: It helps me realize that I have a worth beyond the crime that brought me here.

That I am somebody. That they see me now, as the man I've become, not who I was.

AT: Is it safe to say that you have formed some solid associations and friendships with the guys that come inside to compete?

TF: Most definitely.

AT: During this past 2019 season, you suspended yourself for a couple of games. I don't want to talk about the situation that caused it but more to why you felt that you needed to sit yourself down rather than waiting for the coaching staff to do it?

TF: I place myself in a position as a leader, so that means my responsibilities are more than others. My peers see me a certain way, so I had to hold myself accountable. If I don't, then I'm like everyone else that wants a title but not the responsibility that goes with the title. And, to be honest? It felt good to stand up and say to everyone "I was wrong, so I'm going to sit myself down and hold myself accountable."

AT: You're definitely on point about people with titles who don't want the responsibilities of the title.

TF: That's right.

AT: All right, I'm going to mention a name and you say the first word that comes to mind.

TF: All right.

Ryan 'The Rifleman' Steer: Good person, damn good ball player. Cynthia Cooper: Angel. Will '2-Piece' Wheatly: Close friend. Draymond Green: Beast! LeBron James: Versatile. Joe Montana: Legendary. Old Man Basketball: festive. Lisa Leslie: Beautiful. Steph Curry: Awesome. Bill Epling: Special. Bob Myers: Great!

AT: Okay, it's Black History Month, so let's do something a little different. Who are your top three iconic figures in Black History?

TF: Muhammad Ali, he spoke up at a time when we all couldn't. President Barack Obama, he walked the walk and talked the talk. He showed America and

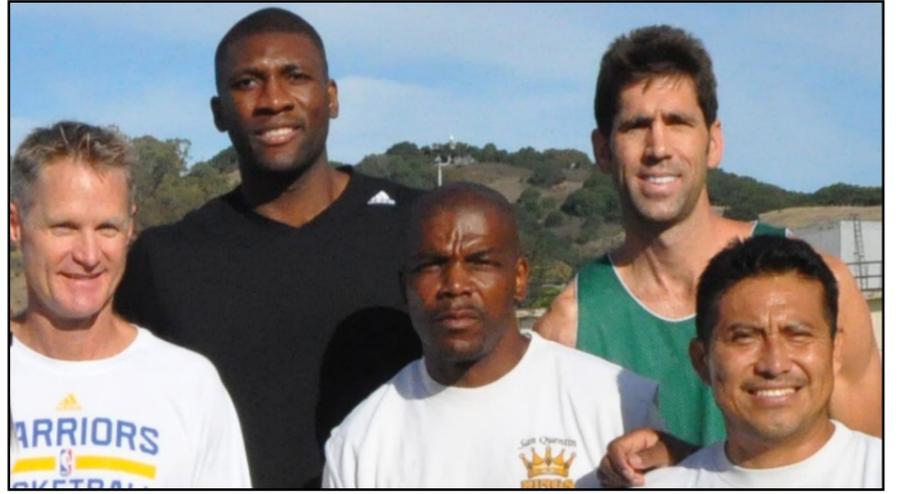


Photo by Eddie Herena SQN

G.S. Warrior Coach Kerr, C Festus Azele, Fleeton, GM Bob Meyers and Kings guard Tare Beltranchuc, 2014 Warriors v. Warriors.



Photo by Eddie Herena SQN

6'0 Fleeton v. 6'5 Jason Robinson

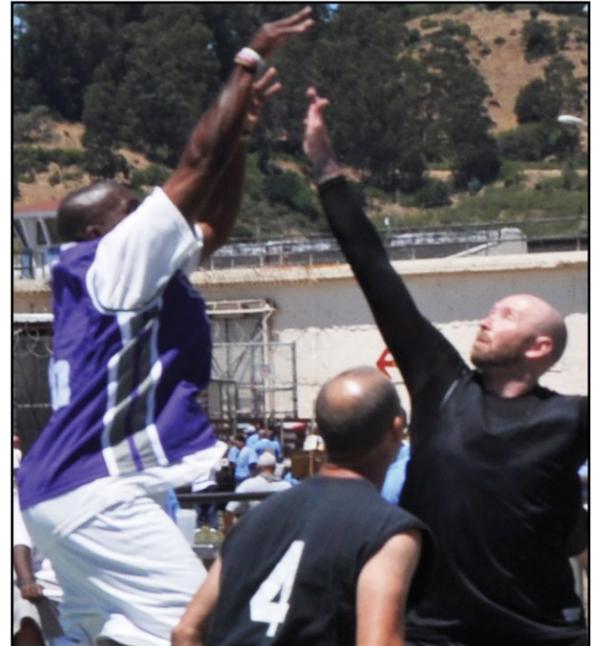


Photo by Eddie Herena SQN

Fleeton shooting over 6'4 Hoov

the world that Black people aren't just athletes and entertainers, that we are also academic and esoteric when it comes to worldwide leadership. Harriet Tubman, 'Mama Moses', she was brave and smart. She put a plan together and went forward, in spite of the times.

AT: Tell the people – inside and out – who Thad is:

TF: I'm a family man. I'm glad that I listened to people throughout the years of this journey in here; you can find diamonds in a pile of s—t. But it helped to carve and shape me into the positive person that I am today.

AT: Thank you for taking some time to talk with me, and Happy Black History Month. You get the last statement.

TF: Thank you to everyone for taking time with me – inside and out -- and I wish for peace on earth, believe that.

Jeffery 'Paranormal' Dumont

For the most prolific pitcher in The Q's baseball history, it's focus and technique. It's how he maintains a 200 pitch count. However, it's the eyes that tell you why I nicknamed him "Paranormal." —Aaron Taylor



All photos by Eddie Herena, 2016



Photo courtesy of Scott Budnick

Prisoners, formerly incarcerated and Sacramento Kings circle together in Folsom Chapel

Play for Justice

Continued from Page 1

Organized through Budnick's REPRESENT JUSTICE, the Play For Justice group also featured former Kings center Vlade Divac, current Kings forwards

Trevor Ariza and Marvin Bagley III, developmental coach Rico Hines and others.

Ariza pointed to prisoners in their cells and noted how some were physically bigger than him yet unable to fully stand up within their own living spaces.

The Represent Justice Campaign launched itself

alongside the Budnick-produced film, Just Mercy, which co-stars Jamie Foxx, Michael B. Jordan and Sacramento native Brie Larson.

Larson and the cast intend to participate in future Play For Justice initiatives, reported The Undefeated, an online publication.

"We know that showing the humanity, resilience and transformation of those behind bars leads to more empathetic and humane laws—and a system more rooted in justice and rehabilitation," said Budnick, as quoted by The Hollywood Reporter.

Represent Justice and Budnick later delivered a Christmas treat to 11 young men and women housed at the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility, taking them by bus on a field trip to the Los Angeles Lakers' practice gym Dec. 23.

Lakers forward LeBron James and Just Mercy actor Michael B. Jordan hung out with all the youths and joined them in a roundtable discussion.

Later the kids split up into 5-on-5 Play For Justice teams, coached by former Laker Champions Robert Horry and Metta World Peace, and played ball on the training facility's hard court.

"Many of the [visiting youth offenders] said it was the first time they felt free in years," said Budnick. "The day was a reminder that people cared about them."

"They felt heard, loved and had a sense of hope and inspiration for their futures."

The Kings' Folsom event had also included a Play For Justice basketball game—right there on the prison yard. The game showcased a restored outdoor court under a newly added pavilion roof complete with full-scale lighting.

"We're proud to be the first participant in the Play For Justice initiative, which is shining a bright light on the unique issues facing incarcerated people in communities around the country," said Ranadive.

The Milwaukee Bucks plan to bring Play For Justice to correctional facilities throughout Wisconsin, starting in February and featuring Bucks guards Sterling Brown and George Hill.

Brown currently holds a civil lawsuit against the city of Milwaukee, after the police used a stun gun on him during a publicized arrest for allegedly double-parking in a disabled person spot.

"My teammates, coaches and I are honored to take

part in this unique criminal justice initiative to hear the stories of our community members and the challenges they face on a daily basis," said Brown.

Nike also came on board to donate shoes and other gear to the incarcerated Wisconsin athletes, whose

families will be allowed to come watch them play.

"We are looking forward to sharing in this experience with them while also identifying how we can further this important conversation nationwide through basketball," added Brown.



Photo courtesy of Scott Budnick

Luke Walton during the game



Photo courtesy of Scott Budnick

Scott Budnick, Vivek Ranadive and Trevor Ariza inside North Block



Photo courtesy of Scott Budnick

King's forward Marvin Bagley III loving every minute with the Folsom crowd



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Incarcerated graduates from Rehabilitative Programs program

144 graduate from Division of Rehabilitative Programs

By **Anthony Manuel Carvalho**
Staff Writer

San Quentin's gym includes a sign stating "a second chance at a first class life." One hundred and forty-five incarcerated people celebrated completing the initial step to acquire that second chance on December 18.

One-hundred and forty-five men graduated from recovery and life skills classes designed for transitioning home, allowing men a chance to further their education.

The graduation was at the Garden Chapel, where 200 people including staff, dignitaries and participating incarcerated took the stage—men in their caps and gowns.

Incarcerated Jose L. tearfully asked to get a picture of the graduation, because he "never wore a cap and gown...never" and stated, "I just want to send it to my family..."

CDCR's Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) designed classes to achieve rehabilitation. Centerpoint, the contract provider, manages the programs for DRP.

Graduation opened with a solo from David Rodriguez and the San Quentin band known as Treasures Out of Darkness.

27 years ago Michael Davila sat where the graduates were. "Now I get to oversee this program," said Centerpoint's operations leader.

"I have been on both sides and had to tell myself that I'll never live like that again. I have a passion to help incarcerated people, so I have

worked for several institutions and in the community with parolees," said the commencement speaker.

"Participants get a sense of completion because we become role models to motivate them. The old way is out as hard love does not work anymore," said the program manager.

CCIII Collins who hosted the event reinforced graduation by asking all participants to make this a family affair.

"Although we bump heads like real family, remember the program's creed and treat us as your guests—you support me and I'll support you," said the program manager.

Keynote speaker Kenny Davis said have a plan when transitioning home.

The mentor and licensed counselor with San Francisco's Urban Alchemy discussed the following:

- Experience differences between visits and going home—you deserve it.
- Now, family, friends, partners don't know you — they will test you.
- I too, changed appearance, emotions and feelings in prison.
- The first 60 days relax and enjoy. Get used to freedom.
- You may need help—ask. An example he used was shopping for toothpaste; in canteen, you have three choices, in a store, you'll have a whole aisle.
- Things aren't the same anymore...there's no Wonder Bread... gone he said to a laughing crowd. "Challenges include relationships, wom-

en, finances and keeping the dignity you earned here.

"If you're not doing nothing in here you do the same out there. Keep resolve; if you're weak you will be drug back in here."

"I got my GED here like some of you-- everything I learned here-- got my (professional) license at 50; bought a car, paid insurance and drove legally, waiting to be pulled over," he laughed. "I now come home to my own place in the Sunset district; I signed the lease and have my own mailbox. It's nothing but a bunch of bills and junk mail, but it's mine," said counselor Davis.

Davis continued, "I surprised my parole officer, how well I was living. Now I'm in San Francisco willing to you do the same."

Retired gang member Davis represented three letters. "Now I represent three new letters, CBT. I am CBT," he said to a cheering crowd. CBT stands for DRP's Cognitive Behavioral Therapy program.

Dr. D. Jones, a counselor stated the participants looked like scholars.

"Your families would be so proud of you." She recited a poem she created called "Beautiful Queen." The poem shows strength of women everywhere and reminds us "forever she (women) reigns (as) the precious queen."

Supervisor Michael Nelson introduced Centerpoint's valedictorian. Nelson said the man pushed supervisors and counselors, yet turned out to be a real sharp young

man, who does a lot around San Quentin. Nelson introduced Mr. Raphael "Nephew" Bankston.

"The program began as milestones for me but five and a half months of 'family' changed my purpose. Staff changed my purpose. I realize we need to rewrite our script and shift our purpose," said the valedictorian.

San Quentin's DRP Coordinator M. Farez introduced the 144 graduates. From Terry Adams to Gregory Washington, all received diplomas.

Farez said that the key to succeeding in CBT's program and life are two-fold. "It takes two items for success—the man's internal decision to excel and support from the program. It's my job to support that decision," said Farez.

Participants assessed the program:

"Little Brother" Jimmy Wynn received a date to go home after advice from board officers. They suggested he address anger issues—he recommends the program for all.

"I didn't realize I had anger issues until the board told me. I addressed ever since I joined CBT."

Pastor Terrance was Wynn's counselor.

"Mr. T's class opened me up because of the information he teaches. Using it daily I am now suitable because I addressed my anger. I will never forget my class or Mr. T," said Wynn, incarcerated in 2001.

Inmate Gregory Washington said anger management

and SUDT (Substance Use Disorder Treatment) gave him tools to figure out his emotions in present time.

"I'm taking everything I learned to the streets," said Washington, who is to be released in February.

The daylong ceremony included insight from Johnny Whittaker & Director Goodwin, who founded the graduate phase of CBT called Offender Mentor Certificate Program (OMCP).

OMCP gives graduates of a chance to become licensed counselors. "Today is a day to hold your head high. We believed you could do it. Believe in yourself. Go beyond yourself," was the theme by the mentors.

The originator of LTOP (Long Term Offender Program), CCIII Chiu, now at Solano said, "Folks don't take a look at themselves until they have to. At Solano we stress not keeping what you've learned to yourself... teach one to teach five is what we strive for," said Chiu.

DRP program analysts Heather Bruglia, AmanDeep Kaur, Ruzanna Sargsyan and Leslie Hamilton collectively shared their enthusiasm for the graduation. They said graduation was very inspiring and was a wonderful graduation. The analysts stated it is an exciting time for change in CDCR and saw firsthand from the graduation how amazing and rewarding CBT & SUDT were.

CCIII Collins took over for the recently promoted CCIII Palmer. The new supervisor said his beliefs of the incarcerated person's achieve-

ments and what they completed made him realize the programs made a difference.

"I truly believe in the success of this program. One of the current provider's counselors was on my caseload several years ago, when I was a CCI...quite frankly, I want that success repeated from this year's graduates," said Collins.

Farez added, "After 20 years at San Quentin, I still believe that a man can change—and if that change is genuine and sincere, he will find the assistance to change here. With programs through DRP the likelihood of a successful change is increased for the returning citizen."

—**Juan Haines**
contributed to this story

**After this story was written, a bulletin was placed in the resident buildings that stated the following:

- All DRP/Centerpoint programs are closed until further notice
- Statewide changes for 2020 are currently in process
- Prior waiting lists are no longer valid
- You will only be assigned thru clinical referrals
- Voluntary assignments to programs are no longer in effect
- There is nothing you or your CCI can affect at this time.

YOUR PATIENCE IS ACCEPTED

San Quentin News will keep you informed as to any additional information it receives.



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Incarcerated graduates from Substance Use Disorder Treatment program