

# San Quentin News



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File Photo

Members of Sistas' With Voices

## Sistas' With Voices rally calls to new head of CDCR

By Marcus Henderson  
Editor in Chief

Voices of concern, love and a call to action were raised by families, friends and prison reform advocacy groups to welcome a new change in CDCR leadership.

Sistas' With Voices (SWV), a re-entry and prison reform and advocacy group, led a rally on October 1 at CDCR headquarters in Sacramento to welcome Kathleen Allison, the new secretary of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), into her Sacramento office.

"This event was put on to welcome the new CDCR Secretary Allison into her role and to let her know that we as family members and concerned citizens were watching her," said Elsie Lee and Mia Shells, founders of SWV, in a joint statement to *San Quentin News*. "We expected that she got to work that day to bring change to CDCR. She cannot sit by and watch our loved ones get infected and some pass away because of this horrible

virus," they added.

Hosts and sponsors of the rally included the Stop San Quentin Outbreak Coalition, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, and No Justice Under Capitalism.

"What's frustrating is that CDCR officials think they know better than we do," said James King, Ella Baker's State Campaigner and former SQ resident. "They think we are naive for saying that these people could safely come home tomorrow. What they are mistaking for naïveté is actually love. We stand with our loved ones because we love them."

"We know what it feels like to sit outside of a state prison for hours waiting to go in for a few precious moments or sit by the phone so that you don't miss that 15-minute call. There have been no state visits since March and that's unacceptable," he added.

Major concerns for healthcare workers who joined the rally were mental health and the possibility of medical neglect inside prisons.

See *SWV* on Page 4

## New video visit program bridges the COVID gap

By Vincent O'Bannon  
Staff Writer

Prisoners sit nervously at a computer screen waiting to see a loved one or a family member they have not seen since March. This is the scene as, in an effort to reestablish visiting, California prisons have instituted a new virtual visiting program. Now family and friends can communicate with loved ones from the comfort of their home or office.

In these unprecedented times, CDCR began a pilot program offering real-time video visits. Smiles and air hugs were shared once the visiting connection was made.

"It was strange. Different. But right now, anything is better than nothing," said Edward Brooks, a San Quentin resident who experienced the virtual visit on Thanksgiving weekend. "My wife doesn't like it. She, like others, wants that physical connection. I can deal with it. And

even though she says she doesn't like it, there's no doubt in my mind that she will be setting up another visit for next month."

San Quentin has 10 visiting stations, each equipped with a computer monitor within the prison's visiting room. Each video visit can last up to 30 minutes.

"What first registered to me was the fact that before entering the visiting room, we were being patted down and searched despite there being no one in the visiting room except CDCR guards," said Brooks.

Officers maintained normal visiting protocols and an IT person was on site for any technical issues that could occur. Some minor technical issues did occur, such as a dropped video feed and/or buffering during several of the visits. However, the occurrences lasted no longer than a few seconds, while the audio feed remained intact.

See *VISITS* on Page 5

## Our honors list for criminal justice work

### San Quentin News Staff

*San Quentin News* would like to honor and recognize these individuals for their work and contributions to social and criminal justice reform. There is no given order to the list; they all have selflessly and tirelessly worked for progressive changes in our criminal justice system, be it through donations, legislation or hard-nosed, on-the-streets, speaking-truth-to-power advocacy work.

San Quentin alumni **James King**, the state campaigner for the Ella Baker Center, and **Adnan Khan**, executive director and co-founder of Re:Store Justice, who took to the airwaves, both radio and television, as major voices of the #StopSanQuentinOutbreak coalition. They have reached back, helping the incarcerated with commutation petitions.

**Earlone Woods**, outside *Ear Hustle* host, is working to repeal California's Three Strikes Law. He

continues to use his platform to get our voices heard. He, along with other formerly incarcerated alumni, sends in support videos to be played on the institution's TV channel.

**Lisa Strawn**, trans advocate and alumna, has also taken to the airwaves for the incarcerated LGBTQ community and others dealing with the prison COVID-19 outbreak. Strawn is fighting for their releases.

See 2020 on Page 7



File Photo

James King



Photo from Re:Store Justice  
Adnan Khan

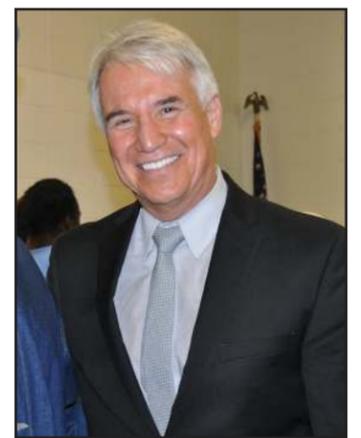


Photo by Eddie Herena  
LA DA George Gascon



Photo by Ear Hustle

Earlone Woods



Photo from Wikipedia

Kim Kardashian



Photo by ca.gov

Sen. Scott Wiener

## Martin Luther King Jr.'s letter from Birmingham jail

### My Dear Fellow Clergymen:

While confined here in the Birmingham city jail, I came across your recent statement calling my present activities "unwise and untimely."

I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

You deplore the demonstrations taking place in Birmingham. But your statement, I am sorry to say, fails to express a similar concern for the conditions that brought about the demonstrations.

It is unfortunate that demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham, but it is even more unfortunate that the city's white power structure left the Negro community with no alternative.

There can be no gainsaying the fact that racial injustice engulfs this community. Birmingham is probably the most thoroughly segregated city in the United States. Its ugly record of brutality is widely known.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

Martin Luther King Jr, leads a march

Negroes have experienced grossly unjust treatment in the courts. There have been more unsolved bombings of Negro homes and churches in Birmingham than in any other city in the nation. These are the hard, brutal facts of the case.

For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never."

See *LETTER* on Page 9

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**Thank you for your support!!**



Truth Akins and the members of 8 Degrees of Yes

Photo from 8 Degrees of Yes

## 8 Degrees of Yes process starts a spiritual journey

**By Amir Shabazz  
 Journalism Guild Writer**

A spiritual program designed to help the incarcerated find hope and transform their lives.

It is called the 8 Degrees of Yes, a therapeutic correspondence program provided through the Center of Truth and Transformation. It uses prayer to aid transformation and finding hope for healing in prison.

"I created (this program) to help others go through and reflect on life and see the negative events, pull them out to find a blessing and/or the lesson in the event," Truth Akins, founder of the

program, told San Quentin News. The goal is to "see the truth and release victimhood by forgiving and letting go, then share their story," she added.

The program participants can sign up for an eight-month or eight-week course.

Akins uses her own life experience as a Black woman and veteran who has faced many injustices as an example to help others in the program.

"The first thing I have is my story," said Akins. "I show how I have separated (the) eight life structures, and my desire to live (the 8 Degrees of desire to live life) in a structured way to reflect on and overcome.

"This shows our dominion over life and ability to manifest better outcomes in our life," she added.

There are three sections in the program: a life satisfaction survey, a study book, and the pillars/testimonial-makers that helps the participants to forgive, let go and transform.

"The first thing we have is a survey. We go through it and we reflect on our satisfactions (and) what our life structures look like presently," said Akins. "Next, is the workbook. We go through it and re-learn about all these life events and lessons and how we relate to each other in our stories."

The program is/was

actually structured for in-person group participants but due to the COVID-19 pandemic Akins had to restructure it for correspondence. "Culture Circles" were used for the story-sharing part of the program. Also, the group would "Problematize," where they would deconstruct issues to determine the root causes for them and then design solutions to address those issues.

"We share(d)... in a space set with unconditional love and no judgment because we all have these challenges, just in different forms," said Akins. "(This) is meant to be done with others, however,

due to COVID, we have to work around it."

Akins has more than 11 years working in correctional facilities in many different positions, most recently as an Adult Basic Education teacher at California Correctional Institution (Tehachapi).

She founded the Center of Truth and Transformation to help empower people to transform hopelessness to communities of hope, where those incarcerated can build skills and healing and to reduce crime.

"I have been able to pull all this into a program in order to guide others," said Akins, "(to) structure it, because transformation has

so many moving parts and is so complex."

The power of prayer is one of those parts used for transformation inside the 8 Degrees of Yes lessons. There are 40 affirmative prayers, five prayers for each of the eight life structures to be prayed on a daily basis. This is to aid the participants to pray on truth and not on the false constructs from others' ideas of truth, she said.

"We have to know life force energy for ourselves because that's the truth. It is us. It's within us," she concluded.

8 Degrees of Yes Project  
 P.O. Box 2141  
 Tehachapi, CA 93581-2141

# Number of Americans jailed or on probation falls over the past decade

By **Juan Haines**  
Senior Editor

The number of Americans jailed or on probation fell 21% from its peak in 2007, federal statistics show.

The figures show between 2017 and 2018 slightly more than 6.4 million people were under correctional control (2.1 million people incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails, in addition to 4.3 million people on probation or parole supervision). In 2007, 7.4 million people were under correctional control.

Key findings:

- From 2008 to 2018,

people in prison or jail fell 17%.

- The incarceration rate for adults in prison or jail declined every year since 2008, with 2018 being the lowest since 1996
- The percentage of adults on probation or parole was lower in 2018 than any time since 1992.

In 2018, 500,000 Californians were under correctional control with 200,000 people in state prisons or county jails.

Violent and property crime (reported to law en-

forcement) has steadily decreased and is currently at its lowest levels since 1969 when the state began keeping statewide crime statistics, reports Mike Males, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

The historically low crime rates remained in spite of the state enacting significant criminal justice reform measures that resulted in the release of thousands of California prisoners from state prisons, other offenders diverted from prison or jail, and others serving lower incarceration periods.

Males's report examined

several criminal justice reform measures, including California's Public Safety Realignment (PSR), signed into law in 2011 by then-Gov. Edmond E. Brown Jr.

Under PSR, offenders convicted of crimes classified as nonviolent, non-serious or nonsexual served their sentences in county jails instead of state prison.

Males also looked at Proposition 47, passed in 2014, which changed felony drug possession and theft of \$900 or less to misdemeanors.

He also examined Proposition 57, passed in 2016, which changed the California Constitution to allow parole consideration for prisoners classified as nonviolent, gave prison officials the authority to award prisoners greater time reduction credits for

good behavior, took away prosecutors' ability to charge juveniles as adults, and gave the charging authority to Superior Court judges.

Meanwhile, Everyday Injustice, an online newsletter, reports that since the reform measures began and continue to be in effect, 30 percent of California counties showed an increase in crime rates, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Sacramento and Santa Clara; however, 20 percent of counties showed a decline, including Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

"California's record-low 2019 crime rates cap a period of a substantial change in the criminal justice system," Males wrote on the website.

Despite initial concerns that reform would erode public safety, most communities were safer in 2019 than at the start of the decade.

The variation that exists across California's counties and cities indicates that recent crime trends likely reflect local practices and conditions far more than state policies, the report concludes. Rape was excluded from total and violent offense rates because the definition was broadened in 2014, hindering comparisons across this period, Males explained.

The national figures in this article are found in Correctional Populations in the United States, 2017-2018, published August 2020 by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

## Kap's kneeling legacy continues in the NFL

"No justice, no peace!" is voiced by those still protesting against the social unrest in the world.

By **Timothy Hicks**  
Sports Editor

Protests for social justice continue in the NFL. Players still take a knee to show solidarity in the fight against police brutality and racial inequality.

During the Thanksgiving traditional football game between the Detroit Lions and the Houston Texans, several players from both teams knelt during the singing of the National Anthem.

Caleb Carroll sang his rendition of the Anthem while playing a baby grand piano. There were relatively few fans in attendance but that didn't stop the players from representing their rights in an Ex-San Francisco 49ers quarterback fashion by taking a knee during the Anthem.

Colin Kaepernick's legacy continues, even though he is no longer on the football field. Although the head of the football league, Roger Goodell, has since publicly apologized

for the huge mistake of pushing Kaepernick out of the NFL, he has not urged his re-hiring.

Kaepernick led the 49ers to several winning seasons and a couple of championships. He took notice of the injustices that were permeating society across the nation and used his platform to shed light on the situation in a unique way. Other players joined his protest but were not punished the way Kaepernick was. But as the leader that he was and still is, Kaepernick continues to press on for change.

"No justice, no peace!" is voiced by those still protesting against the social unrest in the world. Large crowds still gather abroad and speak their minds loudly. However, those in the sports world found their silent unique way that speaks volumes.

Broadcast companies such as CBS capture these silent protests for the world to see, including those who sit in prison watching. They take notice of those out in the world who are kneeling down yet standing up for a cause that most in prison can relate to.

## New app would simplify justice system assistance

By **Vincent O'Bannon**  
Staff Writer

A mobile app is being developed to help connect criminal defendants and other justice-impacted people to services and resources otherwise hard to access.

In an action that will provide mental health and substance abuse services among other valuable information to incarcerated clients, the creation of a mobile app is being developed by Code for America's fellowship program in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office, reported Gina DePinto, communications manager for Santa Barbara County, to noozhawk.com.

"Access to services can be transformed by utilizing technology," said Deepak Budwani, Santa Barbara County Public Defender's chief financial and administrative officer, reported the article.

"Clients would have a one-stop shop of available resources to navigate the criminal justice system, resource

pamphlets, and information materials," Budwani said.

Having access to mental health, substance abuse, and other critical resources can improve the quality of life for those reentering society, as well as reduce recidivism, said the Oct. 27 article

*"Clients would have a one-stop shop of available resources to navigate the criminal justice system, resource pamphlets, and information materials"*

"We need to build and develop sustainable partnerships with all potential community stakeholders to better address the complex needs of our indigent population and

ensure clients have access to resources," said Tracy Macuga, Santa Barbara County public defender.

The app's design and its implementation will be developed over a nine-month period, said the article.

"Our fellows work with local government to create systems interventions where inequity lies at the root," said Hasim Mteuzi, associate director for the fellowship program. "In this way, we bring the margin to the center."

The online service would make it easy for individuals to navigate the complicated process of accessing the existing services and provide information on where to receive them.

"Additionally, services available to clients in the community would seamlessly be accessible and would even list the availability of services at those locations," said Budwani.

"If people are given the chance to address their individual challenges, they may find themselves not entangled in the criminal justice system," said Macuga.

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- 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.

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## Implicit bias is said to infect justice system

By **William Earl Tolbert**  
Journalism Guild Writer

There are subtle racial prejudices within the procedural fabric of the criminal justice system, reported Evan Robinson in a Hamilton College news article.

In a recent webinar sponsored by Hamilton's Levitt Center Law and Justice Lab, advocates for racial justice reform discussed criminal justice initiatives that could begin to heal traumatic effects such as: identifying implicit biases, lack of diversity in the courthouse, and the effects of diversion programs.

The webinar was the last one in a series of discussions covering topics that relate to racial justice reform. "Dividing these topics is really an artificial exercise," said Professor Ronni Tichenor of the SUNY Polytechnic Institute.

"When you start to pull at any one thread, there are all these other problems that are connected to it ... it just shows the importance of this initiative."

The webinar featured Pat-

rick Johnson, program director for Save Our Street organization; Oneida County (N.Y.) District Attorney Scott McNamara; Tichenor; and Hamilton professor Michael "Doc" Woods.

*"...Black people and people of color do not hold the same value as their White counterparts"*

Implicit biases and the lack of diversity in courthouses around the nation was covered by Johnson. He outlined how Blacks and other people of color view their experiences within the criminal justice system.

"Many, many Black people and people of color have had less than positive experiences with people in law enforcement—intimidation, bullying, if not outright racism,"

he said.

Johnson acknowledged that there are good people working within the legal system, but that implicit bias, no matter one's status or position, affects everyone.

Johnson added that the majority of U.S. courthouses are overwhelmingly run by whites. This lack of diversity can become a factor in the criminal justice process.

"(This) could send the message—a very loud message—that in this institution, Black people and people of color do not hold the same value as their White counterparts," said Johnson.

McNamara, who has 14 years' tenure as a district attorney, provided discussions on traffic and marijuana diversion programs and how other reform initiative measures could be used to potentially soothe the damaging effects on poor people's lives.

McNamara added that the traffic diversion program allows people to apply for the program without first hiring an attorney when they are charged with traffic viola-

tions. Also, the marijuana diversion program dismisses criminal charges upon completion of an online course and community service. He noted that these measures have helped locally, according to the article.

McNamara also discussed the necessity for being aware that victims and defendants may have different aspirations for the legal outcome of their cases. This awareness can apply to any legal case, he said.

"They all want justice, but obviously from your vantage point, you see it differently," McNamara said. "Although many people would argue that we can make changes, those changes sometimes come at the cost of someone with a different vantage point."

Woods, a professor of music at Hamilton, discussed jazz and how the Black experience is articulated in it and other forms of African American music. As an example, he said that he hears a "cry" in John Coltrane's playing of "Giant Steps."

# Holiday songs for the cells: another COVID-19 victim

By Vincent O'Bannon  
Staff Writer

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas" is one of many songs the incarcerated population at San Quentin will not hear carolers singing this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

For many years, volunteers from multiple outside churches, accompanied by a group of incarcerated members of the SQ Garden Chapel, spent a chilly December evening singing Christmas carols in the cell blocks.

During this joyous season of the year, songs that bring love, joy, hope, and

spiritual uplifting will not be heard within the walls of the prison units because of the COVID-19 lockdown. The popular Christmas banquet has also been cancelled.

"What I'll miss the most by not being able to carol this year is the tremendous sense of love, fellowship, compassion and care the singers from outside bring," said Robert Barnes.

Grace Cathedral, the Wings of Love, Tiburon Baptist, and the Hillside Covenant are some of the churches that made it their mission to bring holiday joy and ministry to the people in the prison.

Giving freely of their time and voices on a night when people are home preparing festive feasts honoring the birth of Christ, SQ's extended family could be found dedicating their evening to the men of San Quentin, bringing light into the dark walls of prison life.

"It is easy to lose sight while in prison of being redeemable," said Barnes. "The carolers coming from outside are reminders—messengers of God's love."

"The humanity the singers bring inside is a testimony to how a person should not be defined by the crime he or she committed," said

Charles "Pookie" Sylvester. "They have been volunteering to come in for years. They must believe that we are not the monsters that society depicts us as."

When the men would hear that the carolers had entered the building, they would line the tiers, many joining in singing their favorite Christmas songs.

Selections would include "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Go Tell It on the Mountain," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." The residents' favorite was usually "The Little Drummer Boy."

The singers would receive

praise and honor with loud handclaps, shouts of "Thank you!" and "Merry Christmas!" cheers.

The group would sing in the main cell blocks, and sometimes in dorm buildings. Rarely they were allowed into Death Row. When not allowed, the carolers sang in the atrium just outside Death Row where the men could hear the music.

"I will be keeping the happiness, health, and well-being of all the carolers in my prayers and heart," said Barnes. "I'm looking forward to when we'll meet again."

"I sincerely miss the

church and the whole evangelistic experience of God's community coming together to celebrate Jesus Christ to all in San Quentin," said Anthony Waldrip, SQ church member.

"Keep your head up and keep knowing that Christ has everything under control...(PUSH) pray until something happens," said Address Yancy, SQ church member.

Waldrip added, paraphrasing Deuteronomy 4:31, "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread (of COVID-19), for the Lord our God goes with us. He will not leave or forsake us."

## Father George Williams gets his release date from San Quentin

By Anthony Manuel  
Carvalho  
Staff Writer

Members of the San Quentin community hope to get their dates to leave. Father George Williams received his unexpected release day in July of this year.

COVID's quarantine dismantled spiritual practices for all denominations. The services, which define a large part of San Quentin's legacy, were suspended on March 12, 2020. When church services return, the leadership of the Jesuit/Catholic faith will not be the same.

In a good-bye letter to his congregation, Father George announced his transfer to the Jesuit Parish in the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco. The transfer took effect on July 31.

Father Williams, San Quentin's Jesuit priest for the past 10 years, considered his tenure here "the best and happiest years of my life." His all-inclusive services made him a leading supporter of the Death Row and LGBTQ communities.

"Without Father Williams, a transgender week would not have had the impact it did," said Christopher "Max" Hickson. Hickson is the partner of Lisa Strawn, who choreographed the historic LG-BTQ event in 2019.

"It's ironic. No, it's a sign from God that father George and I are leaving at the same time," said Christian Dwight Krizman. Krizman spent the last 30 days of his sentence in SQ's Badger, one of the prison's four housing blocks.

"Restorative Justice, Bible Studies, Spirituality Group

and Christian classes are just examples of how Father William impacted our lives," added Jesuit Choir member John Krueger.

*"Without Father Williams, a transgender week would not have had the impact it did"*

Jesuit services are tentatively set to be led by Pastor Manuel Chavira. Pastor Manny was a student of Father Williams and has filled in numerous times during recent absences of the departing Father.

The continued leadership of Father Manny illustrates the importance of San Quentin's church in relation to the advocacy of San Francisco's Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, who presides over the Archdiocese. He is currently advocating for the attendance rights of the general public, asking Gov. Newsom and S.F. Mayor London Breed to reinstate services that have been discontinued due to the pandemic.

Father Williams said the Archbishop approved his new position outside the walls. "Archbishop Cordileone made it perfectly clear that the community here at San Quentin will have a Catholic chaplain and that service will continue without interruption," Father Williams wrote in his fare-

well. "As our congregation welcomes Father Manny, we are blessed that we will not be losing Father Williams' advice," said choir leader Michael Adams.

Williams announced his plan to return to San Quentin around once a month. "I am also hoping to bring parishioners from Parish St. Agnes to the ministry here," he said.

Father Williams, a Master's graduate in Social Justice, added, "You will have a parish and priest who knows you, to welcome [you] to church if you get out and stay in the Bay Area. God helps us all, even in these difficult times." Williams spoke to all Christians when he said that Jesus says we are here and he is with us.

His farewell letter closed

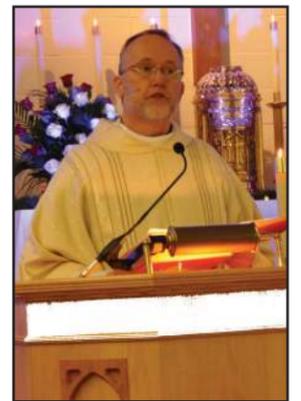


Photo by Eddie Herena

Father Williams at mass in 2016

with his promise to return to San Quentin as a volunteer, once they are allowed back in. The congregation rests in the comfort he will be back.

### SWV

Continued from Page 1

"We've seen this happen before with the Valley Fever disease within the state prison system," said Dr. MK Osolof, from the Decarcerate Sacramento organization. "CDCR eventually enacted policies to transfer those susceptible to Valley Fever to facilities outside of the Central Valley. Their actions came far too late and nearly 3,500 people incarcerated were diagnosed with the disease and at least 53 people died at that time.

"Despite a lawsuit against the state, individuals have never been compensated for the harms they endured due

to CDCR neglect," said Osolof. "Now we are here today in the midst of another pandemic with COVID-19 and CDCR continues to mirror its past errors."

In recognition of October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month, formerly incarcerated women gave insightful speeches in support of the women still incarcerated.

"When I was a teenager, I was found guilty by association," said Tara Williams. "I was given a life without the possibility of parole sentence. Because I was a victim of my own social-economical, disenfranchised environment. I became a victim of our judiciary system. I was railroaded into a system that violated my rights on every level. I was recently released under

Senate Bill 1437 (a felony murder re-sentencing bill).

"It was a long, long fight. It's so unfortunate for women that do not have the support or the means to be able to allow their voices to count and be acknowledged. They are sitting in there doing a death sentence. They're fighting COVID and being exposed to all the inhumane dangers the prisons impose on their lives behind those walls. I am here to support my community, my loved ones and my family in prison."

Cherell Howze, founder of Our Daughter's Destiny, a reentry program in Sacramento, added, "We grow up in these environments where you're not taught how to get out and find a job. You're not taught how to really be a good

citizen and then you are punished for it. And then, not all of the time is the punishment matching the crime.

"So when I finally got out I said OK, I'm going to figure this out. I put together this program where I can go back and help those women. Because there are women that I was in there with still doing life sentences...This pandemic is exposing the social inequalities because of mass incarceration and mistreatment in the jails' health care system. This is not new, but the news is now on it, which is great, but now is the time to really fight," she added.

Letters from incarcerated loved ones were also read to the crowd, expressing their fears.

"I am mentally and emo-

nally terrified," stated one letter. "I suffer from Valley Fever and COVID has proven to be a menacing deadly virus. We lost 29 lives in San Quentin. We would like to take a moment of silence for the 67 lives lost within CDCR," the letter writer added.

Secretary Allison was unable to meet with the rally participants, so her responding letter to their request was read to the audience.

"I do want to impress upon you and your loved ones, as well as every family member and supporter of our incarcerated population in CDCR, that I understand and care deeply about the issues outlined in your letter," said Allison, in her statement.

"As a licensed Registered Nurse, I have been on the

frontlines of the health care issues throughout my career, and my top priority is to respond to this pandemic, protect our just over 92,000 inmates, and ensure we communicate with supporters like you," she added.

Sistas' With Voices and the reform coalition vowed to keep fighting for releases to save their incarcerated loved ones' lives. They are planning more rallies and to strengthen their reentry programs.

"We tell all our brothers and sisters that are locked behind the walls to hold on; your sisters are out here fighting for you," said SWV's Lee and Shells. "We have not left you and we are not done until CDCR opens the gates. We will leave no man [or woman] behind."



File Photo

Elsie Lee



File Photo

Mia Shells



File Photo

Attendees watching the slide show of incarcerated loved ones.

# Adding up the good and the bad for 2020

## EDITORIAL

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Editor in Chief

### Welcome 2021.

It's hard for me to wish you all a Happy New Year with many of us still processing the events of 2020—the seismic shift of what we would call normalcy. We were rocked by the coronavirus just as we were shook up by the many police killings and the revival of White nationalism. Even our political foundation shows cracks with Trump calling our national election a fraud and his supporters following him down that road.

I am a Black man in prison and I'm from the "Hood"—where we really don't do politics like that. So I was like ... what?

Some people really think that it's a good thing to undermine our belief in democracy. We endure so much death and loss in our lives we lost icons such as Black Panther star Chadwick

Boseman; "RBG"—U.S. Supreme court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; singer/entertainer Little Richard; congressman John Lewis; actor Sean Connery, OG-James Bond; Jeopardy's Alex Trebek, Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gigi; and Tom "Tiny" Lister Jr. who played "Deebo," the lovable bully from the Friday movies ("What you got on my 40, homie?") Plus many other legends.

More than 300,000 Americans died from Covid-19, and more than one million people worldwide. They were mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters. For eight minutes and 46 seconds we literally watched George Floyd take his last breath of life as former police officer Derek Chauvin sat nonchalantly with his knee on George's neck. Breonna Taylor was shot and killed in a police raid prompted by something she was not involved in.

Ahmaud Arbery was killed by White vigilantes for jogging in the wrong neighborhood. Young Kyle Rittenhouse traveled across state lines to protect some property and allegedly killed two people at a Black Lives Matter protest.

So are our Black lives equal? Just look at the millions of dollars killers easily raise with their Go Fund Me accounts. Yeah! "Law and Order" for whom?

Former President Trump told the Proud Boys, an anti-government group, to "Stand back and Stand by." What?! Are you kidding me?! Let any other American say something like that and they could be charged with inciting a riot. If nothing else, they would be under investigation. White nationalist groups stormed state capital buildings with guns after Trump tweeted, "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!"; "LIBERATE VIRGINIA!"; "LIBERATE MINNESOTA!" To protest coronavirus lockdowns there



Photo by Javier Jimenez  
Marcus Henderson

was even a plot to kidnap and kill the Michigan governor.

As vote counters around the nation had their lives threatened, we (the incarcerated) watched these events unfold from prison cells, serving decades of time. And we are considered the dangerous

ones! Go figure.

To process so much pain and trauma one must stop and breathe, be still and search for the good. My word for this New Year is "Steadfastness" – be firm in belief and determination. One thing 2020 has surely taught us is that the world is changing, be it climate change or political unrest throughout the world.

There is no more business as usual. With Joe Biden as President, we have overcome a lot. Some prison reform has taken place around the country. Progressive district attorneys have been elected, police oversight committees have been established and much more.

I have watched many of my friends parole, go home and turn immediately to advocacy work. I find my strength in these exceptional men and women who have not forgotten us.

Nina Turner, former Ohio state senator who is now running for a newly vacant seat in

Congress, had this to say in a *Democracy Now* interview:

"No honeymoon.' What do we mean by that? We mean that we the people hold the power, that we must continue to fight for what is just, right and good, and fight against what is not just, right and good. We mean that we must have solidarity and commitment, one to another. We who believe in freedom cannot rest. What do we mean by that? That as long as there are injustices, we will continue to fight. What do we mean by that? We know that when everyday people put a little extra on their ordinary, extraordinary things happen. We need not just bold voices, but people who will take action and will be fearless when it comes to standing up for what is just, for what is right and for what is good."

I wish you all the best in your endeavors, and remember that love for each other can conquer all.

*Have a good year.*

## NC law students focus to help the incarcerated

As COVID-19 forces many schools and universities to face closure, the students at Wake Forest University, through its Prison Letter Project, had to refocus how to provide research services to those incarcerated in their state.

"We've transitioned to a virtual model," said Ashley Willard, about the pro bono project. "Many of our law students are working from home now."

The Prison Letter Project provides research for legal information requests from North Carolina's incarcerated population.

With the coronavirus causing major outbreaks in most of the nation's prison systems, many prisons have shut down such prison operations as visiting, self-help groups, access to recreation, and regular and law library

ies. This makes the Prison Letter Project a much-needed resource for North Carolina's incarcerated to get current legal information.

"We are here to help as much as we can," said Willard. "However, Prison Letter Project cannot give legal advice or provide representation to anyone." This means that the project can provide research on any legal topic requested, but cannot apply that research to the facts of any particular case, she added.

Willard recognizes that some incarcerated people may have those needs, but their program only provides research.

"Fortunately, there are many other organizations, including Wake Forest Innocence and Justice Clinic, that are set up to provide those services," she said.

The research program allows the incarcerated to receive up to 40 pages (20 pages front and back) of requested legal research. The most common requests include:

- Case law (opinions from cases),
- Statutory text on criminal charges or sentencing guidelines,
- Information about motions for appropriate relief.

"The more specific the request, the better we will be able to help," said Willard. "If you know the citation of a certain case or a statute, that's especially helpful. If a request is vague, we still try our best to gather research. But we have a better chance of gathering the information that individuals need if the requests are clear and specific as possible," she added.

To protect law students against the coronavirus, the project's virtual model helps process the incoming request.

"Whenever we receive a letter, we scan it and send it to a student to complete the request," said Willard. "They return their letters, which are reviewed to make sure that the research is complete and accurate, and we print off the research and mail everything back (to those that have requested the information)," she explained.

The project's continued legal and criminal justice innovation is not only helping the incarcerated but providing the next generation of lawyers with the hands-on training they will need for a profession that includes judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys.

"This is their first opportunity to help someone during

law school," said Willard. "It is an opportunity for them to step back from the law school environment, apply what they have learned in the classroom and put their research skills into practice."

The program is rewarding for those who help with the work, said Willard. The whole Prison Letter team enjoys getting the word out about this experience.

"Our wait-list is always full of students eager to give their time and help however they can," she said. "We love to spread the word about our program so more students get the chance to be involved."

North Carolina incarcerated can write the project at: WFU Law Prison Letters Professional Center Library P.O. Box 7206 Winston-Salem, NC 27109  
—*Marcus Henderson*



## VISITS

*Continued from Page 1*

"Because my family lives out of state, and many of them are too old to make the trip out here, it is a blessing for me to have that interaction by whatever means necessary," said Leonard F. Brown, a San Quentin resident, about his visit. "Something had to be done to give us access to our loved ones, and if it has to be in an empty visiting room and on a computer monitor, then I'm blessed for that privilege."

The video-visiting program first rolled out in five institutions: San Quentin State Prison, California Institution for Men, Mule Creek State Prison, Valley State Prison, and Central California Women's Facility, but has since expanded to all the institutions.

Families are allowed to schedule a visit every 30 days. The video calls are on a secure and encrypted Webex computer system. According to the CDCR, visits may be canceled at any time for health and safety reasons.

"For what's going on right now, (with COVID) it's good, and I applaud CDCR for its effort," said San Quentin resident Anthony Waldrip.

Prior to the video visiting program, CDCR and Global Tel Link had joined together to offer two free phone calls per

month due to COVID-19's impact on the lack of family interactions. CDCR has yet to mention if the free calls will continue to be offered.

Even without the physical visiting, some of the incarcerated population look forward to having that connection with their families to help deal with their mental health. Some people have lost loved ones and had to process that loss without knowing what was going on at home.

"For the guys whose mothers have passed away, if they could have talked to her, or even seen her on video, (that) would have been a blessing," said Patrick Baylis, a San Quentin resident." So people should take advantage of the video visiting because not only is it a blessing to us, it's also a blessing to our families."

CDCR was working toward reopening in-person visits with limitations, but with California COVID cases across the state on the rise, prisoners and staff safety trumped its occurrence, according to CDCR website. But video visits will be used at this time.

"After our visit, we were made to go through the metal detectors," said Brooks. "I don't understand the philosophy of that, but the visit itself was not a bad

experience for me."

The VPass scheduling process will no longer be used to schedule visits. Approved visitors will now be required to submit visiting requests to each institution's designated email address (see box).

Video visiting pilots took place at the following institutions the weekend of Dec. 5 and 6: San Quentin State Prison, Valley State Prison, Central California Women's Facility, California Institute for Men, and Mule Creek State Prison.

On Dec. 12 and Dec. 13, the following institutions conducted video visiting: California City Correctional Facility; California Institution for Women; California State Prison, Corcoran; California Rehabilitation Center; Kern Valley State Prison; North Kern State Prison; Pleasant Valley State Prison; Sierra Conservation Center; Salinas Valley State Prison; Avenal State Prison; Centinela State Prison; California Correctional Institution; California Men's Colony; Chuckawalla Valley State Prison; Folsom State Prison; Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and California State Prison Solano.

On Dec. 19 and Dec. 20 the following sites conducted video visits: California State Prison, Sacramento; Calipatria State Prison; California Health

Prospective visitors must submit visiting requests directly to the institution where their loved one is housed, using the designated email addresses for each institution. Reservations will be taken weekly, beginning each Saturday at 8 a.m. through Monday at 8 a.m. for visits the following weekend.

- Avenal State Prison: ASPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California City Correctional Facility: CACVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Calipatria State Prison: CALVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California Correctional Center: CCCVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California Correctional Institution: CCIVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Central California Women's Facility: CCWFVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Centinela State Prison: CENVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California Health Care Facility, Stockton: CHCFVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California Institution for Men: CIMVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California Institution for Women: CIWVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California Men's Colony: CMCVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California Medical Facility: CMFVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California State Prison, Corcoran: CORVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California Rehabilitation Center: CRCVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Correctional Training Facility: CTFVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Chuckawalla Valley State Prison: CVSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Deuel Vocational Institution: DVIVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Folsom State Prison: FSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- High Desert State Prison: HDSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Ironwood State Prison: ISPVVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Kern Valley State Prison: KVSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California State Prison, Los Angeles County: LACVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Mule Creek State Prison: MCSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- North Kern State Prison: NKSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Pelican Bay State Prison: PBSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Pleasant Valley State Prison: PVPSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility: RJDVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California State Prison, Sacramento: SACVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facility: SATFVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Sierra Conservation Center: SCCVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- California State Prison Solano: SOLVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- San Quentin State Prison: SQVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Salinas Valley State Prison: SVSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Valley State Prison: VSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov
- Wasco State Prison: WSPVideoVisiting@cdcr.ca.gov

Care Facility; California Medical Facility; Ironwood State Prison; California State Prison, Los Angeles

County; Pelican Bay State Prison; Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility; Wasco State Prison; California

Correctional Center; Deuel Vocational Institution; High Desert State Prison and Correctional Training Facility

# Online publishing community puts incarcerated voices front and center

By Joe Garcia  
Journalism Guild  
Chairperson

Fueled by the growing interest in real-life reporting from behind bars, the Prison Journalism Project (PJP) launched itself in April 2020 as a national nonprofit platform for incarcerated writers and artists.

Executive Directors Yukari Kane and Shaheen Pasha originally co-founded PJP to create a textbook and curriculum to expand journalism education inside the walls. But with COVID-19 shutting down regular inside programming across the country, PJP shifted gears into online publishing.

"We realized this was a historic moment — in terms of prisoners not being adequately prepared for this health crisis — not being given masks, not being able to social distance, etc.," said Kane, who is also an adviser for *San Quentin News*.

PJP had initially intended to focus on stories about COVID-19, but they broadened the scope because writers had so much to say about George Floyd, mental health, parenting from behind the bars and other issues.

"The men and women inside needed an outlet for their voice," said Pasha.

By propelling the voice of the incarcerated community into mainstream media, PJP hopes to provide writers and artists a route into the national conversation on criminal and social justice reform.

"People need to know that journalism is absolutely necessary behind bars," explained Pasha. "Think about it. The number of incarcerated persons in America — that's the equivalent of a small country. How can you have a whole country without journalism?"

As veteran reporters themselves, journalism professors Kane and Pasha use their experience to support prison writers willing to produce content. Together with Director Kate McQueen, the PJP team encourages all

incarcerated persons to contribute their insight and experience to the historic narrative of mass incarceration for its publishing platform [prisonjournalismproject.org](http://prisonjournalismproject.org).

It accepts articles, essays, op-eds, poetry, art and photographs.

"Most media that report on incarceration use easier sources, the easier access of relying on the prosecutor's and law enforcement's side of the story," noted McQueen, adding that writers behind the wall can help provide "a fuller, more rounded picture."

Formerly incarcerated multimedia journalist Christopher Etienne also recently joined the organization as a director to explore new ways of telling stories by combining dispatches from inside with photos, video and music.

"Yukari and Shaheen are both really smart, talented workaholics," said McQueen, whose main focus lies in the history and practice of journalism. "The fact that the three of us are at three different universities across the country, we've been able to combine our knowledge, our interests and our individual networks."

In addition to its own publication, PJP helps put its writers' work in front of experienced editors at outside publications. Using their strong contact base, PJP has already helped place stories by incarcerated writers onto the pages of the *San Francisco Public Press*, *Street Spirit* and the *Washington Post*.

"The power of any community comes down to the power of its numbers — so the more prison writers tell their stories, the more clear and complete that story will be," said Kane. "We don't want to tell you what to write. We have ideas, but nobody can tell stories about what's inside better than the incarcerated community."

So far to date, PJP submissions total more than 250 stories from over 100 writers inside correctional facilities across 26 states. One recent-



Photo from PJP  
Christopher Etienne



Photo from PJP  
Kate McQueen

ly published Q&A featured former Death Row Records CEO Suge Knight, who gave the interview to an incarcerated reporter serving time with him at the Donovan Prison near San Diego.

"I want to see writers learn new ways to be creative," said McQueen. "And learn to write with style — in order to tell a true story."

Using social media to engage conversation, PJP is drawing as much attention as possible to their writers' product.

"I just got a tweet from a lady in Australia," said an excited Pasha. "That response, that acceptance, with which people are embracing these stories about things they have no prior experience with in their lives... it shows that our writers' work has value."

PJP welcomes and looks for stories from all sectors of incarceration. It wants to make a particular effort to publish work by underrepresented voices such as



Photo from PJP  
Yukari Kane



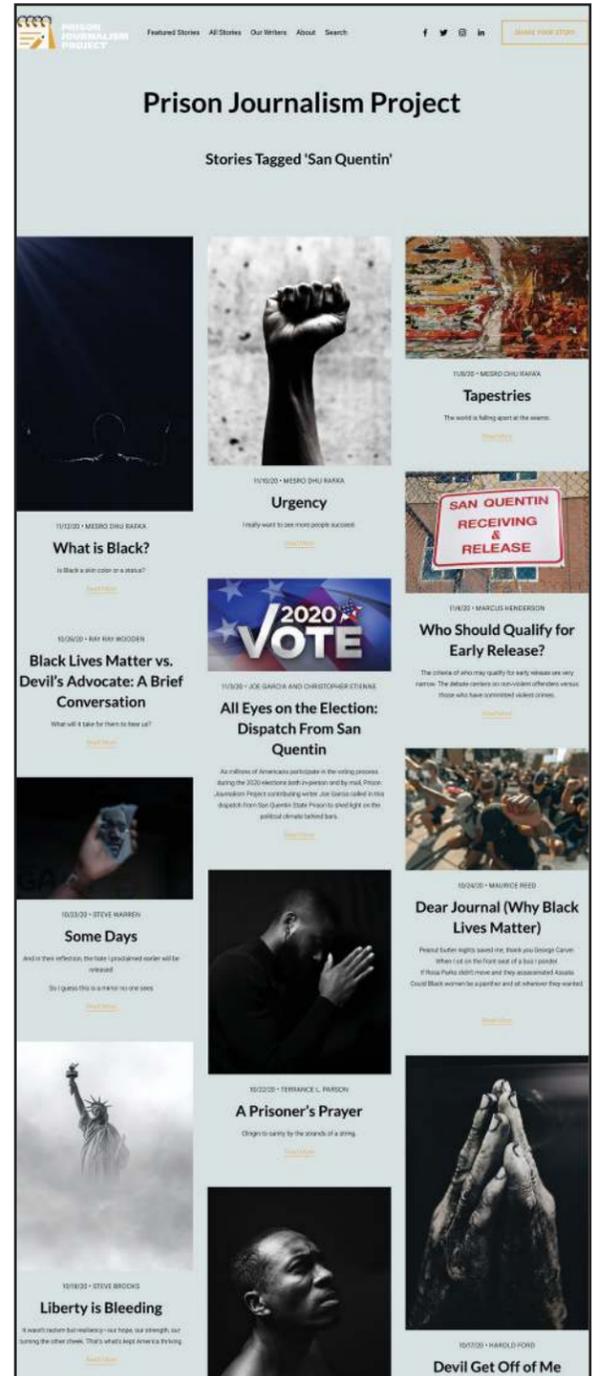
Photo from PJP  
Shaheen Pasha

women, LGBTQ community members and people held in immigration detention centers or prisons on Native American reservations.

It also wants to hear from the incarceration-impacted people — that includes family, friends, corrections staff, prison volunteers and educators, medical personnel and legal advocates — anyone who has something to say.

Kane said she hoped to eventually bring together a number of incarcerated reporters from inside different facilities for one big collaborative story project. PJP is also looking for incarcerated artists who can mix imagery and words into a compelling story.

Kane, McQueen and Pasha all juggle the demands of their academic careers with their PJP commitments. In addition to recruiting an army of volunteers and assistants, they are exploring funding through grants, awards and their nonprofit donor base.



"We want to keep this thing sustainable," said Pasha.

For now, PJP prompts writers and artists to express their vision for 2021 and beyond. Optimism? Fear? Outrage? Transformation? What motivates you throughout your own incarcerated experience? How did you spend your New Year's Eve/New Year's Day?

To send stuff and or/ask questions:

PJP, 2093 Philadelphia Pike #1054, Claymont, DE 19703  
PJP also accepts submissions by outside email: [prisonjourn@gmail.com](mailto:prisonjourn@gmail.com) and through JPay: [prisonjourn@psu.edu](mailto:prisonjourn@psu.edu) (for facilities with access)

## Q Ball nominated for Emmy Awards in 2020

By Timothy Hicks  
Sports Editor

San Quentin-filmed *Q Ball* was nominated for a Sports Emmy Award for Outstanding Long Sports Documentary, making it the first Sports Emmy-nominated prison documentary film in California's prison history. "They didn't see our clothes or our incarceration," said San Quentin resident Anthony Ammons, who was one of the stars in the film. Speaking of those who nominated the film, Ammon added, "They saw a good story and good human beings—they saw that we made some bad decisions, but we are not the bad decisions we made."

In addition to its Sports Emmy nomination, *Q Ball* won the Documentary Competition in the Seattle International Film Festival in 2019.

There were a number of people who worked on the film and were very instrumental in its creation. San Quentin News captured some of the guys' reactions in a Q&A. Rafael Cuevas,

Aaron "Showtime" Taylor and Anthony Ammons were some of the stars featured in the film and who were stoked about the nomination.

**Q:** How does it feel to be in a documentary that was nominated for an Emmy?

**A:** (Anthony Ammons) I'm amazed of what God can do in here that allows people to see us. I'm in awe. God allowed light to shine in a dark situation that maybe kids can see and don't make the same decisions I did. I'm thankful that I can be in a place of vulnerability.

**Q:** What do you want people to take from the film, both inside and out?

**A:** (Rafael Cuevas) I would prefer if the spotlight was on the incredible gesture of love that our volunteers show when they commit to participating in the programs. These men and women sacrifice so much to bring us hope, support, and give a sense of community. ...Everybody should be impacted.

**Q:** Do you think more stories like this need to be told?

**A:** (Cuevas) This is a story

that anybody can be a part of if they have enough love and tolerance in their heart.

The self-proclaimed "Voice of SQ Sports," Aaron "Showtime" Taylor, has since paroled and is now living in the free world. Before he left, he was asked:

**Q:** How does it feel to be a part of a Sports Emmy-nominated film and to win the Seattle International Film Festival?

**A:** (Aaron "Showtime" Taylor) Being the voice of sports at The Q was something I took great pride in. Being nominated is hopefully the beginning for me in having a great career in broadcasting.

**Q:** What did you get from the experience with *Q Ball*?

**A:** (Showtime) Valuable experience and exposure. I got to see the other guys open themselves up to a degree and be vulnerable in ways that I'm not used to seeing them be.

**Q:** Anything else you want to say?

**A:** (Showtime) Yeah, I told (producers) Mike (Tolajian), Jordan (deBree), and



Filming of *Q Ball* inside San Quentin's gym

Photo by Eddie Herena

Rebekah (Fergusson) that we'd be nominated because our film was real and raw. I was right about that part.

**Q:** Anything you want to add?

**A:** (Cuevas) Yeah, I want to give a shot to the production team, the ones who really deserve the accolades. Mike, Jordan, and Rebekah, for her seeing a story in our program; Kevin Durant for believing in us; Cutty and Maserati E, who were the

only incarcerated representing on the film; and all the viewers. I hope they see our humanity and our struggle on our road towards redemption.

In addition to *Q Ball*'s Sports Emmy nomination for Long Sports Documentary, its composer Joel Goodman and music production manager Andrew Dewitt were nominated for Outstanding Music Direction/Composition/Lyrics. Goodman has worked on *Independent Lens*,

*American Experience* Films, ESPN's *30 for 30*, *Playing for the Mob*, *Bad Boys* and *Once Brothers*. Andrew DeWitt worked on several docs including *Obit: Life on Deadline* and *American Winter*.

The Seattle International Film Festival's jury awarded its Grand Jury Prize to *Q Ball* "for its refreshing positivity and skillful portrayal of vivid characters and honest camaraderie."

# San Quentin News' people of 2020 from politicians to athletes to celebrities



Photo by CCWP  
Kelly Savage



Photo by Lisa Strawn  
Lisa Strawn



Photo from Initiate Justice  
Taina Angeli Vargas



Photo from Hudson Link  
Sean Pica



Photo by Wikipedia

TRUST and Project LA and Health & Wellness programs volunteers



Photo by Wikipedia  
Phil Ting



Photo from Brendon Woods  
Brendon Woods



Photo by Wikipedia  
Barbara Lee



Photo by Wikipedia  
Gavin Newsom



Photo from Instagram

Van Jones, Bryan Stevenson, Michael B. Jordan, Nijja Kuykendall and Scott Budnick

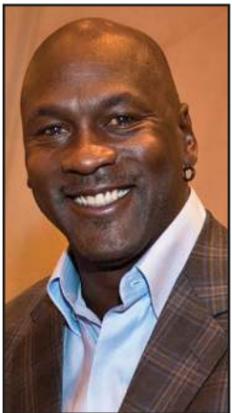


Photo by Wikipedia  
Michael Jordan



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LeBron James



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Colin Kaepernick



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Jay-Z



Photo by Wikipedia  
Robert Kraft



Photo by Wikipedia  
Meek Mill



Photo by Eddie Herena  
Common



Photo by Wikipedia  
John Legend



Photo from the Marshall Project  
Lawrence Bartley

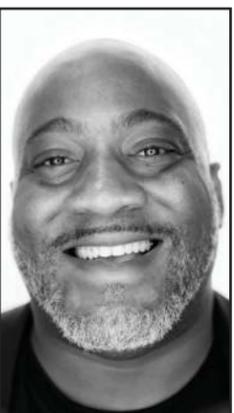


Photo from FRCC  
Desmond Meade



Photo by Wikipedia  
Nancy Skinner



Photo by Justice Collaborative  
Kate Chatfield



Photo by Wikipedia  
Michael Bloomberg



Photo from alcolda.org  
Nancy O'Malley



Photo from ARC  
Sam Lewis



Photo from CCWP  
Laverne Shoemaker



Photo from shakasenghor.com  
Shaka Senghor



Photo by Wikipedia  
Reggie Jones-Sawyer



Photo by Wikipedia  
Marc Levine



Photo from David Jassy  
David Jassy

## 2020

Continued from Page 1

We thank **Kim Kardashian** for helping get legislation passed, fighting for incarcerated juveniles

and Death Row incarcerated, and getting people released from prison. She visited San Quentin and helped with the release of our colleague **David Jassy**. We thank and honor the many social justice organizations — we appreciate you all. We thank

all the incarcerated workers, the porters and kitchen workers. If we missed anyone on the list, it was not intentional; it's simply because we have limited resources. Most people who made our list we have a continuing working

relationship with and know their work. President Donald Trump was probably the only person we had for the list that caused debate, not for political reasons but for strictly criminal justice reform reasons. We recognize his

signing the First Step Act and releasing Alice Johnson. But he also reinstated the federal Death Penalty, which has killed at least eight people to date. And he established policies to detain and separate children from their parents at detention centers. There are

still hundreds of kids who have not been reunited with their families. So these actions may have negated the positive — you be the judge, but this list is for the forward moving. We thank you all again and keep up the good fight.

In October, students at Miami Youth Academy and men at San Quentin State Prison in California started a letter exchange facilitated by the Prison Journalism Project. The men were asked to initiate by writing about what they would do differently if they knew as a teenager what they know now. The following is a letter from Heriberto, followed by the students' responses. The Miami Youth Academy houses up to 28 boys from 14 to 18 years old, who are sent there by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

Dear MYA Students,

If I were a teenager now, what would I do differently, given what I've learned through my experiences?

I would not solve my problems through violence. I would not fight to prove how tough I was or to earn respect. The momentary relief I always felt after a fight I could have gotten from working out. I would walk away from aggression, or try to talk my problems out if I could. If not, I would avoid that person or situation. If the problems continued, I would talk to my parents, another adult, or teacher about what I was going through. I would even call the cops if I had to.

I know now that the best way to solve a problem that I can't solve on my own is to ask for help. There are people who care and want to help, even though at times it may seem like they don't. I would trust others — especially those in positions of authority. If they happened to let me down, I wouldn't let that stop me from trusting those that hadn't. There are so many good people in the world; one just has to look.

Patience is so important. As a teenager, I wanted to have money to buy everything I wanted, and I didn't want to wait for it. I wanted it immediately. Having to work and save took too much time. Stealing things and selling drugs gave me what I wanted faster, but I know now that the cost was too high.

I should have realized that causing pain, then justifying my actions isn't worth any amount of money, especially considering the consequences. I wish I had thought about those consequences realistically, and considered how my actions could affect my victims, my family, myself. I should have imagined myself in their shoes and thought about how I would feel if it happened to me or one of my loved ones. You can't take back the pain you put someone through — they carry that.

Then, there's the punishment that comes — your consequences. Who likes jail? This is no place to live. You can't get the time back.

I would never have joined a gang. I was willing to live or die for my old gang. What were they willing to do for me when I got arrested? Nothing. Not even write me a letter. They forgot about me. They turned their backs on me when I gave up everything. True friendship is when someone puts their hand out to lift you up, not to hand you drugs or a weapon. A true friend will say, "Let's go to school," not convince you to ditch class. They'll tell you, "Don't get high" — they won't want you to get in trouble. They will want you to succeed, not to be into things that would bring you down.

I wouldn't have blamed my circumstances for my position in life; I should have stopped thinking I didn't have a choice. Good or bad, there is always a choice. I should have weighed the pros and cons of my decisions. Sometimes life is tough and there are things we can't change, but sometimes we can. Be willing to accept that, keep working towards your goals, and don't get discouraged — don't ever give up on yourself.

I would have loved myself. I would have believed that no matter what, I have value. I am a human being who isn't perfect — but there is no one else like me in the entire world.

Sincerely,

Heriberto Arredondo

The following are responses from the students:

Dear Heriberto,

Damn man, I relate to everything you said. Hence the reason why I'm incarcerated right now. I skipped school, trying to fit in to act cool. I started affiliating with a gang by age 14 and dropped out in 8th grade.

Now look at me. My best friend graduated high school, even though he was skipping school with me. I was so influenced by negative vibes I turned into someone who I was not. I even took a possession charge for him two years ago, not knowing he wasn't a true friend that wanted me to succeed.

I'm sitting in a program and all my friends are out living their life. I finally learned who I really am and that only family will always be there and will forever be solid.

Keep your head up big dawg. I know I'm a little too late to say that, but I hope this brightens your day and you will keep on pushing to be the best person you can.

Sincerely,  
N. H.

Dear Heriberto,

I was very excited to hear from you. Thank you for giving me some wisdom and motivation to become greater than what I am.

I wish you could have an opportunity to be a productive citizen with a bright future. I wish that you could get out and become the greatest you could be and also become anyone you want to be.

Thank you for being able to write this letter to me and my peers. Sometimes, I feel like life is messed up, but now I see my life could be much worse. You seem like a very cool person. I pray that you get another chance. I sometimes wonder if good things are real, but I see that some miracles can happen.

If you didn't know that you have someone that really appreciates you and hopes that you thrive, it is me. Love will free you.

Sincerely,  
D. K.

Dear Heriberto,

I am now 18 years old. I've been locked up for a while now and have two more months left until I step into the real world with another chance. I appreciate you for writing this letter. It shows that you really care for us and care about our lives.

I am thankful for the program, because I could have had worse consequences because I was moving real fast without even thinking. I let my impulsive behavior choose my decision. The program taught me to choose the right decision. It's hard to stay up in here, so I try to think about the positive things, so I can keep going with my time and get out of here on time.

Sincerely,

A.W.

Dear Heriberto,

I can relate to your letter because I was telling myself the same thing. When I was doing the thing I was out there doing, I told myself that one day I will turn my life around. I would never want to be in jail longer than one second, so I know for sure what you are going through right now is very hard.

I am only in this program for one year, but it feels like I am in here for a longer period of my life. One day I hope to God I can be with you and your family, and He can give you a blessing so you can go home to your family and live your life.

All the best,

N. C.

## Rebuilding his life after 44 years of incarceration from 1170d

By Ruby Wilks  
Davis Vanguard

At age 63 and during a pandemic, Paul Redd begins to build his life outside of prison after 44 years of incarceration despite serious health problems.

In 1975, a San Francisco jury found then the 19-year-old Oakland resident guilty of first-degree murder of a local drug dealer; he was sentenced to seven years to life in prison.

One of the two other men arrested for the same crime pled guilty to a lesser charge and testified at trial that Redd committed the murder. For this deal, he served no time in jail or prison.

This man's testimony was the only evidence against Redd, who has always maintained his innocence.

Redd spent over 30 of his 44 years of incarceration in solitary confinement. He was kept alone in a concrete, windowless, poorly ventilated cell for between 22 and 24 hours a day.

"Paul lived in conditions that were at the time the worst prison conditions in the United States," stated attorney Charles Carbone, who represented Redd and other inmates in a class action lawsuit.

Rudd was forced to live in

an environment "designed to maximize sensory deprivation, designed to basically maximize mental suffering, pain, and anguish, and for individuals to mentally decompenstate as a consequence," commented Carbone.

Prison officials claimed they placed Rudd in the SHU because, despite a lack of any real evidence, they deemed him a Black Guerilla Family affiliate.

This practice, termed "gang validations," gave CDCR the legal license to place people in solitary confinement for decades, not based on any criminal or unlawful activity, but because of a supposed gang association.

Association could be as simple as "having artwork or a book that supposedly had gang connotations associated with it, talking in a law library, (or) communicating through mail with people who supposedly had gang connections, even if you're talking about the most innocuous, ordinary incident," pointed out Carbone.

During his time in Pelican Bay's Secured Housing Unit, Redd participated in the 2011 and 2013 hunger strikes that united prisoners of many races, making national news and demanding attention to the inhumane conditions of

solitary confinement.

He later became a plaintiff in a prisoner-led class action lawsuit, *Ashker v Newsom* (2015), that, among other reforms, ended indeterminate solitary confinement and the practice of "gang validations" in California prisons.

Despite serious weaknesses in the case against him, his impressive prison record and resume, his serious health conditions, and his solid re-entry plan, he was denied parole more than 18 times before he lost court.

San Francisco Public Defender Danielle Harris came to visit him and explained that he was, instead, pursuing release through 1170(d). Redd cried tears of joy.

Harris assembled a package, strengthened by supporting letters from nurses, psychologists, and others who worked with Redd in a prison hospice center. Harris then submitted the package to San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin, who recommended the court recall Redd's sentence.

"I want people out now," said Harris.

By mid-May 2020, Redd said, "The judge vacated my murder conviction, gave me manslaughter credit for time served, and ordered I be released immediately. Within four or five days, I walked out

of Vacaville."

Harris said Redd's release was possible because of a 2018 law that gave prosecutors power to recommend resentences, and the election of DA Boudin.

After Redd's release, Harris helped him connect with the Five Keys Re-Entry Program in Oakland. The program staff is helping Redd get his Social Security, Medi-Cal, medication, and driver's license.

Redd has a strong family network and has developed meaningful personal and professional relationships inside and outside of prison.

Redd accepted an offer from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Oakland, a social justice and activism organization.

In 2015, Redd found out he had a tumor on the top of his right lung and was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer.

Battling cancer inspired Redd to create a cancer support group in California Medical Facility in Vacaville.

Elaborating on the utterly inadequate health services in prison, Paul said, "there is no regard for the human life of prisoners inside these prisons."

"That's why a lot of these people have a lot of these ailments: they're elderly, they're at high risk, with a number

of medical conditions as a result of the shabby medical program that existed because CDCR doesn't want to spend the money to send you to see the necessary specialists, to get the necessary tests done, etc."

When he sought mental health support at CMF, he was told that since he was not on psych medication—"what they call triple CMS," he told me—he wouldn't be provided with mental health assistance.

He hopes to help others find a way to freedom

through 1170(d) and to work against the stigma and harmful stereotypes that surround those convicted of crimes.

"I want to see if I can put together a team to work with me to file a class action lawsuit for money damages for all those decades they kept us in solitary confinement, like they did. It contributed to a lot of our health problems today—the sleep apnea, the cancer, etc."

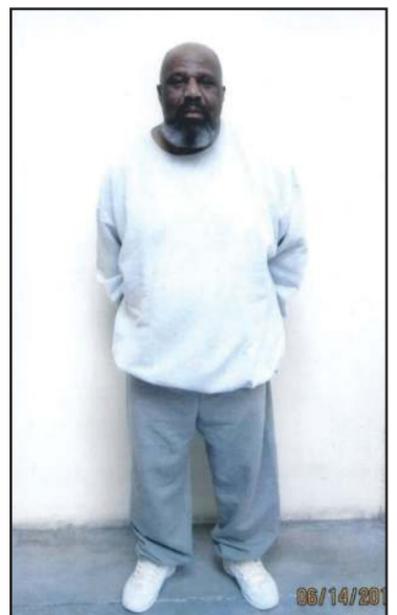


Photo courtesy of Paul Redd  
Paul Redd

He said he also wants file a class action lawsuit on behalf of cancer patients that he believes developed cancer from asbestos exposure in prison.

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# Four new California DAs pushing for social justice

By Elton Kelley  
Journalism Guild Writer

New voices are growing in California's District Attorneys' offices with the goal to bring modern and diverse approaches to public safety, according to a *KQED* article.

A small group of DAs has formed a progressive law enforcement association, also known as the Prosecutors Alliance of California.

"What is clear is that the criminal justice system we have had in this country no longer serves our best interests," said Cristine Soto DeBerry, executive director of the initiative, told *KQED*. "And arguably never did serve our best interest."

The alliance consists of Diana Becton of Contra Costa County; Tori Verber Salazar, San Joaquin County; Chesa Boudin of San Francisco; and George Gascon, recently elected Los Angeles County DA.

As some law enforcement agencies seek to undo criminal justice reform gains, the group and its advocacy members are set to be an alternative voice in those discussions. The new

alliance plans to educate and lobby Sacramento lawmakers against measures that may be harmful to criminal justice reform.

Like this year's Proposition 20—the measure was bought and supported by law enforcement agencies to repeal Proposition 47 and other reforms that aim to reduce the overcrowded prison population in the state. The measure failed to pass on the November ballot.

"I find that very insulting. I am a voter and I take my voting responsibility very seriously," said Salazar to *KQED*, noting 60% of people voted for reforms such as Proposition 47 prior to the repeal attempt. "So, are you really saying 60% to 65% of our community is uneducated and ignorant and didn't know what they were voting for?"

To restore people's trust and confidence in the system, the progressive DAs see the need to provide real debates around reforms with their counterparts and the state Legislature.

"It changes who's speaking for law enforcement, right?" said journalist Emily Bazelon, author of the book "Charged,"



Photo from Wikipedia  
DA Chesa Boudin

which shows how the power of local prosecutors has increased mass incarceration. "So, if you have district attorneys united in saying that sentencing reform is a bad idea, or it's not safe—that sends a really strong message. (But) If you have some DAs on the other side, even if it's the minority, saying "Wait, wait, wait, we don't need these heavy sentences to do our jobs... that really changes the conversation."

Changing that conversation can be frustrating for the progressive DAs when they speak to other hardliner DAs about different approaches to



Photo from Contracostaca.gov  
DA Diana Becton

issues. "The problem that I struggled with was that there wasn't space for other voices to be heard. There wasn't a space for growth and change," said Salazar, on why she joined the alliance. "Every time that there was an opportunity to look at criminal justice differently and to have that really difficult conversation and really look at our role in all of this... instead of saying, 'This is an opportunity,' they immediately went to opposition and opposed all criminal justice or most criminal justice reforms."

Different counties have



Photo from sigov.gov  
DA Tori Salazar

different perspectives on criminal justice issues. San Francisco is not like Riverside, said Vern Pierson, head of the California District Attorneys Association (CDA) and DA of El Dorado County to *KQED*. The CDA represents 57 DAs and 4,000 non-elected prosecutors in the state, according to the article.

"I don't have a problem with the new organization," said Pierson. "It represents a small segment of that."

He notes that the two parties can partner on some issues.

"I will definitely get backlash for this," said DA



Photo from cristinedeberry.com  
Cristine DeBerry,  
Executive Director  
Prosecutors Alliance of  
California

Salazar. "I didn't start my career thinking I'm going to be sitting next to these guys (the alliance). I had to have that very difficult conversation with myself as to what was my ethical and moral responsibility and what was my fiscal responsibility to my community. And how do I start healing it by building trust and transparency."

"It certainly sounds good," said Shawn Barth, San Quentin resident to *San Quentin News*. "It's been a long time coming."



Photo by Wikipedia

The Edmund Pettus Bridge where civil rights marchers were beaten in 1964



Photo by Wikipedia

King inside a jail cell

## LETTER

Continued from Page 1

We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God given rights. "Wait." But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six year old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is

closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people;

When you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness"—then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait. There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair. I hope, sirs, you can understand our legitimate and unavoidable impatience.

The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has

a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that "an unjust law is no law at all."

Where were their voices when the lips of Governor Barnett dripped with words of interposition and nullification? Where were they when Governor Wallace gave a clarion call for defiance and hatred? Where were their voices of support when bruised and weary Negro men and women decided to rise from the dark dungeons of complacency to the bright hills of creative protest?"

Yes, these questions are still in my mind.

I have no despair about the future. I have no fear about the outcome of our struggle in Birmingham. For more than two centuries our forebears labored in this country without wages; they made cotton king; they built the homes of their masters while suffering gross injustice and shameful humiliation—and yet out of a bottomless vitality they continued to thrive and develop. If the inexpressible cruelties of slavery could not

stop us, the opposition we now face will surely fail. We will win our freedom because the sacred heritage of our nation and the eternal will of God are embodied in our echoing demands. Before closing I feel impelled to mention one other point in your statement that has troubled me profoundly. You warmly commended the Birmingham police force for keeping "order" and "preventing violence." I doubt that you would have so warmly commended the police force if you had seen its dogs sinking their teeth into unarmed, nonviolent Negroes. I doubt that you would so quickly commend the policemen if you were to observe their ugly and inhumane treatment of Negroes here in the city jail; if you were to watch them push and curse old Negro women and young Negro girls; if you were to see them slap and kick old Negro men and young boys; if you were to observe them, as they did on two occasions, refuse to give us food because we wanted to sing our grace together. I cannot join you in your praise of the Birmingham police

department.

It is true that the police have exercised a degree of discipline in handling the demonstrators. In this sense they have conducted themselves rather "nonviolently" in public. But for what purpose? To preserve the evil system of segregation. Perhaps Mr. Connor and his policemen have been rather nonviolent in public, as was Chief Pritchett in Albany, Georgia, but they have used the moral means of nonviolence to maintain the immoral end of racial injustice.

I wish you had commended the Negro sit inners and demonstrators of Birmingham for their sublime courage, their willingness to suffer and their amazing discipline in the midst of great provocation. One day the South will recognize its real heroes. They will be old, oppressed, battered Negro women, who rose up with a sense of dignity and decided not to ride segregated buses, "My feet is tired, but my soul is at rest." They will be the young high school and

college students, and a host of their elders, courageously and nonviolently sitting in at lunch counters and willingly going to jail for conscience' sake. One day the South will know that they were in reality standing up for what is best in the American dream, thereby bringing our nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the founding fathers in their formulation of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

I hope this letter finds you strong in the faith. Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.

Yours for the cause of Peace and Brotherhood,  
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Published in:  
King, Martin Luther Jr.  
Written on April 16, 1963

# Snippets

**F**ingernails and hair do not, in fact, continue to grow after you die. To grow, these must have a steady supply of glucose, which is cut off after the heart stops beating, preventing any further growth. In fact, the skin around the hair follicles and nails dehydrates after death and partly retracts, which can make them appear longer.

**I**n the deepest levels of our oceans are some of the least explored areas of the planet. Because of the extreme pressure, cold, and dark at these depths, only the very strangest of creatures can survive there. These include giant tube worms, vampire squids, goblin sharks, and viperfish with teeth so long that they can't close their mouths. Perhaps the strangest, though, is the barreleye, a large fish with a completely transparent head.

**S**et has the largest number of meanings of any word in the English language, with 430 different senses listed in the 1989 edition of Second Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary.

**C**otton candy was invented by a dentist named William Morrison. In 1897, he partnered with candy-maker John C. Wharton to develop the cotton candy machine (which at the time was known as "Fairy Floss"), and it's been bringing kids cavities ever since.

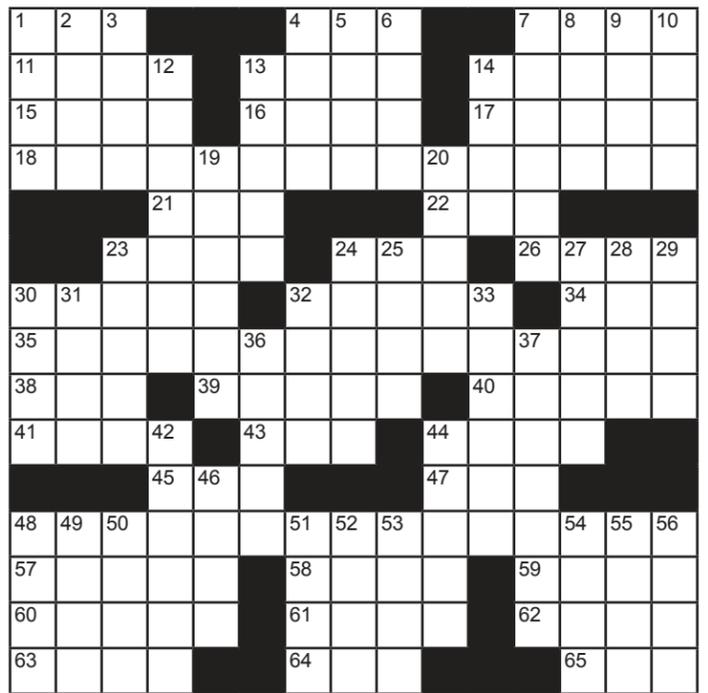
# Crossword *Edited by Jan Perry*

Across

1. Bodily disorder (Abbr.)
4. Bit
7. Roman emperor
11. Singer Johnny
13. Fable
14. Type of tooth
15. Bargain
16. \_\_\_\_\_ breve
17. Major European river
18. Credit cards
21. "Good luck" in text speech
22. Moving lang. (Abbr.)
23. UK's finding-a-new-home motto (Acronym)
26. Mashed potato sound
30. A column you'll never see in Tic Tac Toe
32. Golddigger's requirement
34. Japanese wear
35. Get yourself in trouble
38. Pop band from the '90s
39. Structures
40. Township in Tibet
41. Actor Morales
43. Donkey
44. Australian jazz-rock group (1971-72) (Abbr.)
45. Incarcerated point system
47. "That's disgusting"
48. A good value
57. Singer Styles
58. Type of horse
59. Type of noodle
60. Common Toyota car
61. Actress Hathaway of *The Princess Diaries*
62. Stereo alternative
63. Chocolate company
64. What you can't hold in
65. Internet slang

Down

1. Big hospital in the Bay Area
2. Philippine volcano
3. Peninsula
4. Type of order
5. Language of Ethiopia
6. Those who speak 22 Across
7. What back seat drivers are
8. Inventor Musk
9. South African monetary unit
10. Rocks
12. Math shape
13. A plain weave
14. Medical tests
19. Popular gifts for kids
20. Aviation tech
23. Mushroom, clam, and minestrone
23. Main vessel
24. Checks
25. \_\_\_\_\_ of Dragonkind (D&D item)
27. Devil fruit
28. Follow
29. Lake that served as a military base in WWII
30. Woodwind instrument
31. Baseball count
32. Signals
33. Kevin Costner golf movie
36. Scarlett \_\_\_\_\_
37. Myer's or Gosling's
42. He flew too close to the sun
44. Formerly known as Aswan
46. New York rock band
48. Motorcycle cops in the Bay Area
49. It got beat by a turtle
50. US lake
51. "It's a \_\_\_\_\_"
52. Can precede 6 Down
53. Kotoko album
54. Wedding words
55. Disadvantages
56. Actress Mireille

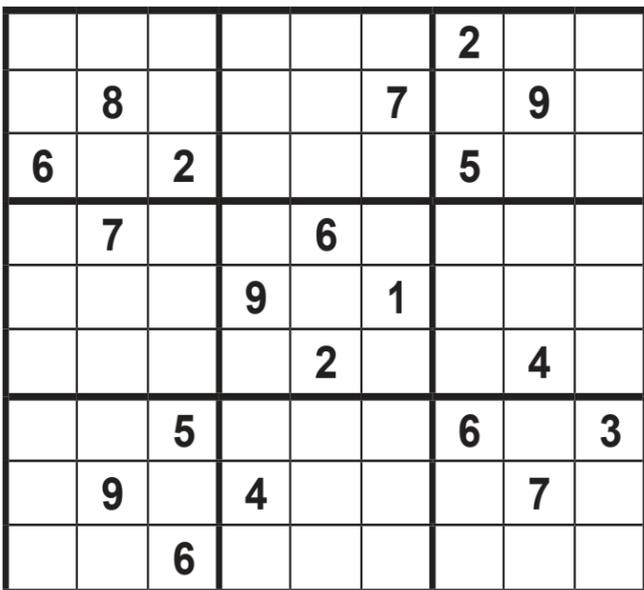
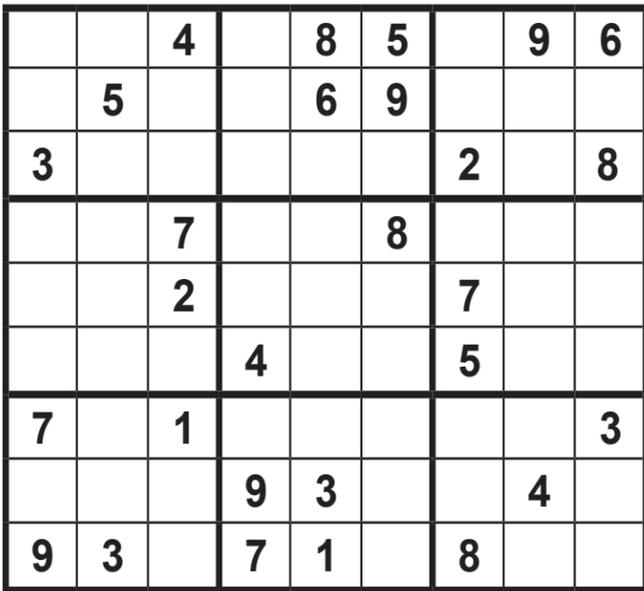


By Jonathan Chiu

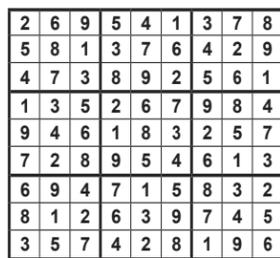
Last issue's answer



# Sudoku Corner



# Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions



- LOCK — PIANO > KEY
- SCHOOL — EYE > Pupil, Exam or Private
- BED — PAPER > Sheet
- EGYPTIAN — MOTHER > Mummy
- SHIP — CARD > Deck
- PILLOW — COURT > Case
- ARMY — WATER > Tank
- SMOKER — PLUMBER > Pipe
- TREE — CAR > Trunk
- RIVER — MONEY > Bank or Flow
- TENNIS — NOISE > Racket

# Brain Teasers

## Answers

**Fishbowl-** Did you see a fish of a different color in the bowl? You have just experienced an afterimage. In the retina of your eyes, there are three types of color receptors (cones) that are most sensitive to either red, blue or green. When you stare at a particular color for too long, these receptors get "fatigued." When you then look at a different background, the receptors that are tired do not work as well. Therefore, the information from all of the different color receptors is not in balance. This will create the color "afterimages."

**Bezold effect-** The smaller squares inside the blue and yellow squares are all the same color. They seem different (magenta and orange) because a color is perceived differently depending on its relation to adjacent colors (here blue or yellow depending on the outer square).

**Café Wall Illusion-** The horizontal lines are straight, even though they do not seem straight. In this illusion, the vertical zigzag patterns disrupt our horizontal perception.

**Illusory Motion-** The circles do appear to be moving even though they are static. This is due to the cognitive effects of interacting color contrasts and shape position.

**Elephant-Tricky, isn't it?!** This picture is an impossible picture that also contains some subjective contours, such as the Kanizsa Triangle below: A white triangle (pointing down) can be seen in this figure even though no triangle is actually drawn. This effect is known as a subjective or illusory contour. The contour of the triangle is created by the shapes around it.

**Triangle-3**

**People- 45**  
10 could not speak Spanish, 20 could not speak Italian, and 25 could not speak Mandarin. So there could have been 10 people who spoke none of those languages. However, that would maximize the number of people who could speak all three, and the problem asks at least how many speak all three. Therefore, we must assume that these 10, 20, and 25 people are all separate people. Having identified 55 each of whom is missing one language, the remaining 45 speak all three.

## This issue

A blind beggar had a brother who died. What relation was the blind beggar to the brother who died? "Brother" is not the answer.

You are in a room that has three switches and a closed door. The switches control three light bulbs on the other side of the door. Once you open the door, you may never touch the switches again. How can you definitively tell which switch is connected to each of the light bulbs?

I left my campsite and hiked south for 3 miles. Then I turned east and hiked for 3 miles. I then turned north and hiked for 3 miles, at which time I came upon a bear inside my tent eating my food! What color was the bear?

A man is looking at a photograph of someone. His friend asks who it is. The man replies, "Brothers and sisters, I have none. But that man's father is my father's son." Who was in the photograph?

What is special about these words: job, polish, herb?

# Incarcerated Reentry Resource Directory

Note: Some of the programs listed in previous issues had become inactive or have been discontinued. Our apologies to the program as the people writing them. We will do our best to provide updated information and resources to our readers and the incarcerated population.

Buddhist Prison Ministry  
P.O. Box 426  
Orcas, CA 98280  
Penpals, Meditation Support, Solitary Top Level

Jericho Vocational Services Center  
11705 Deputy Yamamoto Pl. Ste. A  
Lynwood, CA 90262  
Tel: 323-242-5000, ext 3300  
shough@shieldsforfamilies  
clozano@shieldsforfamilies.org

"Jericho Vocational Services Center (JVSC) utilizes a "one-stop" model for providing supportive services, vocational and educational training, case management and linkage services to enhance the possibility of successful outcomes for returning citizens. Working with federal, state and local criminal justice partners to identify potential program participants, the overall goal of the program is to provide a continuum of services that will assist individuals re-entering their community in securing and maintaining employment, establishing above-average earnings, and avoiding recidivism."

## Reentry Organization

Prison Reentry Network  
1201 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, #200  
Oakland, CA 94612  
prisonerreentrynetwork.org  
Provides: Advocacy, education and community support

Community Assessment Service Center (CASC)  
Steve Adami, Program Manager  
564 6th St., San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 489-7308 steve.adami@sfgov.org  
sfgov.org/adultprobation/casc-community-assessment-service-center

Building Opportunities for  
Self-Sufficiency (BOSS) For Us By Us  
1600 San Pablo Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510-844-8221x1604 info@self-sufficiency.org self-sufficiency.org/reentry-justice/

Provides community Support: Peer Support, Guidance on Education, Employment Housing, Substance Use, Health Care

Ahimsa Collective  
Richard Cruz, Program Manager (925) 402-1170  
mutualaidrestorativejustice.org  
Community Support: Online Check-In Circles, Mutual Aid for People Formerly Incarcerated and Domestic Violence, Trauma, Sexual Harm, Crime Survivors

Underground Scholars  
Sammie Gilmore, Incarcerated Scholars Program Coordinator  
2400 Bancroft Way  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
(510) 643-2226 aggielife.ucdavis.edu/organization/beyond-the-stats

Project Rebound, Sacramento State University  
6000 J St.,  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
(916) 278-6794 projectrebound@csus.edu csus.edu/student-affairs/centers-programs/project-rebound/

Freedom Through Education  
Delia, Coordinator  
(916) 701-5113 (916) 215-6143 Info@ftecampus.com  
freedomthrougheducation.com  
Education: Anger Management, Domestic Violence, Nutrition, Communication Finances: Budgeting and Money Management Courses Housing: Sober Living Environment, Transitional Housing, Substance Use: In and Out Patient Services, Relapse Prevention Courses

Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)  
2301 Mission St., Ste. 301  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 282-3334 medasf.org  
Education, Employment: Preparation, Finances: Tax Services, Financial Capability Coaching. Additional Languages: Spanish

Five Keys  
70 Oak Grove St.  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
(415) 734-3310 fivekeyscharter.org/re-entry-no-cal

Cerro Coso Community College  
Krystal Watkins, Reentry Coordinator  
Education: Pre-Parole Reentry Workshops, Employment: Job Readiness, General Support: Peer Mentorship, Referral to Social Services

Northern California Women's Resource Center  
930 Bryant St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(410) 734-3150 fivekeyscharter.org/programs/#rs-nc  
Education: Educational Support Services, General Support: Case Management, Gender-specific and Responsive Programming, Developing Social Networks, Substance Use

Mission Hiring Hall  
1048 Folsom St.  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 865-2105 missionhiringhall.org  
Employment Counseling, Educational Training, Vocational Training, Support Service Referrals, Job Readiness Training

La Familia Re-Entry Employment Program (REP)  
Lara Maxey, Program Director  
2490 Grove Way, #15  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(510) 300-3560 x1260 Lmaxey@LaFamiliaCounseling.org  
REP Referrals: Probation.Referrals@LaFamiliaCounseling.org  
lafamiliacounseling.org/diversion\_re\_entry\_department#parent.  
Employment: Job Readiness Training, Assistance with Resume, Applications, Interviews, and Conduct-Guided Job Searches

Hospitality House  
Bobby Jones, Employment Case Manager  
181 6th St.  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 369-3050 (415) 749-2196 hospitalityhouse.org  
Employment: Employment Search, Employment Preparation  
Finances: Tax Filing Assistance, Housing: Emergency Shelter

Sister Warriors Free  
320 13th St.  
Oakland, CA 94612  
carde@youngwomenfree.org info@  
sisterwarriorsfreedomcoalition.org sisterwarriorsfree.org  
Employment: Job Readiness, Community Support: Peer Mentorship General Support: Ride-Home Services from Custody, Healthcare: Mental Health Services

Powerhouse Ministries  
311 Market St.  
Folsom, CA 95630  
(916) 983-0658 info@phmfolsom.org phmfolsom.org  
Employment: Job Readiness, Food, General Support: Family and Children's Services, Hygiene Supplies, Worship, Emergency Needs, Homeless Liaison, Housing Legal

Sister to Sister 2 (Serenity House)  
2363A San Pablo Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 891-0464 Fax: (209) 661-7996 serenityhouseoakland@gmail.com serenityhouseoakland.org  
Employment: Job Readiness, Food, General Support: Clothing, Public Benefits, Help with Applications, Transportation Within the Community, Case Management Healthcare: Mental Health, Counseling Housing

Chinese Newcomers Service Center  
Jenny Dang, Resource and Referral Specialist  
777 Stockton St., Ste. 104  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
(415) 421-2111 Fax (415) 421-2323 cnsc@chinesenewcomers.org chinesenewcomers.org  
Employment: Employment Search, Finances: Tax Assistance

Rubicon Reentry Success Center  
912 Macdonald Ave.  
Richmond, CA 94801  
(510) 679-2122 rubiconprograms.org  
Employment: Job Readiness, General Support: Family and Children's Services, Public Benefits, Help with Applications, Legal

America Works of California  
564 6th St.  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 552-9675 americaworks.com

Our Road Prison Project  
3700 East 12th St., Ste. 2E  
Oakland, CA 94621  
ourroadprisonproject.org  
Employment: Employment Search, Technology Training, Healthcare Assistance, Skills Building

The Last Mile  
44 Tehama St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
info@thelastmile.org thelastmile.org  
Employment: Workforce Re-Entry, Job Support (Technology Field)  
General Support: Free Laptops

YMCA SF  
50 California St., Ste. 650  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 777-9622 ymcasf.org  
Employment: Employment Search, Employment Preparation, Workforce Development and Advisors

Building Opportunities for  
Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)  
Career Training and Employment Center  
1600 San Pablo Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 844-8221 self-sufficiency.org/reentry-justice/  
Employment: Career Training, Employment Center, Career and Computer Training, GED, Mentorship, Links with Second-Chance Employers

Code Tenderloin  
55 Taylor St.  
San Francisco, CA, 94102  
(510) 240-2735 codetenderloin.org  
Employment: Preparation, General Support: Transportation, Childcare, Finances Legal

Contra Costa Reentry Network @ Healthright 360  
5119 Lone Tree Way  
Antioch, CA 94531  
(925) 732-1374 erahmanovic@healthright360.org healthright360.org

Employment: Job Readiness, Community Support: Peer Mentorship, General Support: Case Management, Connections to Spiritual Support  
Mary Magdalene Community Services  
Clarence Henderson, Supervisor  
440 N El Dorado St.  
Stockton, CA 95202  
(209) 888-4519 marymagdalenecs.com  
Employment: Job Readiness Community Support: Peer Mentorship  
Finances: Financial Assistance, General Support: Public Benefits, Help with Applications, Transportation within the Community, Clothing

Anti-Recidivism Coalition  
1414 K St., Ste. 150 Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 942-9080 antirecidivism.org  
Employment: Job Readiness Community Support: Peer Mentorship Healthcare: Mental Health Services, General Support: Ride-Home Services from Custody

LAST Ministry, Inc.  
6326 Main Ave., Ste. #22  
Orangevale, CA 95662  
(916) 587-4030 info@lastministry.org lastministry.org  
Employment: Return to Work Training Housing: Housing Assistance, Substance Use Support Housing for Women General Support: Clothing

Center for Employment Opportunity  
Lonnie Tuck, Alameda County Director  
464 7th St.  
Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 251-2240 ltuck@ceoworks.org ceoworks.org  
Employment Opportunities

Urban Alchemy  
72 6th St.  
San Francisco CA 94103  
(415) 757-0896 urban-alchemy.us/  
Employment Opportunities

Motivate LLC  
Abigail Clifford, Talent Acquisition Manager  
353 West St., Unit 225  
New York, NY 10014  
rabigailclifford@motivateco.com motivateco.com  
San Francisco Bay Area Employment Opportunities

Centro Legal  
(510) 437-1554  
info@centrolegal.org centrolegal.org  
Finances: Financial Assistance, Financial Assistance for Undocumented Folks During Pandemic

Free Eats and Pantry  
Various Locations in San Francisco Meal Referral:  
(800) 273-6222 Questions: (415) 648-3222 free@freeprintshop.org freeprintshop.org

Project Open Hand-Food  
Oakland: (510) 622-0221  
San Francisco: (415) 447-2300 openhand.org

Lifelong  
837 Addison St.  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
(510) 981-4100 lifelongmedical.org  
Healthcare: Urgent Care, Dental, Behavioral Health, Counseling, Recovery Support

Mission Neighborhood Health Center  
240 Shotwell St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 552-3870 mnhc.org: Uninsured, Low-Income

UCSF Mission Mental Health Services  
2712 Mission St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 401-2700sfresourceconnect.org  
Healthcare: Psychiatric, Mutual Aid Support

Richard Fine's People's Clinic  
Healthcare: Primary Care Services  
1001 Potrero Ave., Bldg. 5, 1st Fl., Ste. 1M  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(628) 206-8494 zuckerbergsanfranciscogeneral.org/location/richard-h-fine-clinic/

Westside Crisis  
245 11th St.  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 431-9000 Fax: (415) 431-1813 westside-health.org/programs/crisis-clinic  
Emergency Psychiatric Care

La Familia Counseling  
24301 Southland Dr., Ste. 300  
Hayward, CA 94545  
(510) 300-3110  
Healthcare: Substance Use Treatment, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Mental Support  
Pedro Felix, LCSW, Clinical Program Director Anna Phillips, Ph.D., LMFT, Director

Tom Waddell Urban Health Clinic  
230 Golden Gate Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 355-7500 sfhealthnetwork.org/primary-care-3/tom-waddell-urban-health-clinic

# Incarcerated Reentry Resource Directory

Healthcare: HIV Prevention and Care, Hepatitis C treatment, Office-Based Opioid Treatment, Transgender Care, Integrated Behavioral Health Services, Podiatry, and Dental Service Additional Languages: Spanish, Cantonese, Tagalog, French, Italian

Central Valley Indian Health  
2740 Herndon Ave.  
Clovis, CA, US 93611  
(559) 299-2578 Fax: (559) 299-0245 cvih@cvih.org cvih.org  
Healthcare: Medical Care, Mental Health Services For California Native American Residents

Transitional Clinic  
Healthcare: Medical Care, Hotline  
Social Services  
Erica Morse, Program Manager  
Felecia Greenly, Lifelong Program CHW  
1855 Folsom St., Rm. 520,  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Hotline (510) 606-6400 fgreenly@lifelongmedical.org  
transitionsclinic.org

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center

Marcy Basila, Coordinator  
(916) 442-0185 x100  
Marcy.Basila@saccenter.org info@saccenter.org  
saccenter.org

Healthcare: Medical Care, Mental Health Services, HIV  
Community Support: Support Groups, Housing Legal, General  
Support: Transportation within the Community, Clothing

WestSide Community Service  
1153 Oak St.  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
(415) 431-9000 westside-health.org  
Healthcare: Crisis Clinic & Adult Outpatient Services, HIV/AIDS  
Services, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Substance Use:  
Detoxification, Methadone Maintenance

West Oakland Health Council  
West Oakland: 700 Adeline St., Oakland CA 94607 (510)  
835-9610  
East Oakland: 7450 International Blvd., Oakland, CA 94621 (510)  
835-9610  
Additional locations in Oakland and Berkeley westoaklandhealth.

org Healthcare: Mental Health Services, Dental, Optometry,  
Pediatrics, Behavioral Health, Women's Health  
Family Bridges - Community Health Home Program  
168 11th St.  
Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 839-2022 familybridges.org  
Healthcare: Adult, Senior, Housing: Search Food: Search Social  
Services

Catholic Charities  
990 Eddy St.  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415) 972-1200 catholiccharitiessf.org  
Housing: Temporary Housing  
Jose Cartagena, Director of Homelessness & Housing Services

Time for Change Foundation (Women)  
2164 N Mountain View Ave  
San Bernardino, CA 92405  
(909) 886-2994 info@timeforchangefoundation.org  
timeforchangefoundation.org/services/psf/  
Housing: Temporary Housing, Emergency Housing

**This resource guide was provided by post-conviction unit interns from UC Hastings and the San Francisco Public's Defenders Office. Researched and compiled by Ayanna Gandhi, Abigail Swallow, Amy Tao, Violeta Velazquez, Ruby Wilks under the Supervision of Stephen Liebb.**

## PEN America Writing for Justice Fellowship 2021

PEN America's Writing for Justice Fellowship will commission six or more writers—emerging or established—to create written works of lasting merit that illuminate critical issues related to mass incarceration and catalyze public debate.

The PEN America Writing for Justice Fellowship aims to harness the power of writers and writing in bearing witness to the societal consequences of mass incarceration by capturing and sharing the stories of incarcerated individuals, their families, communities, and the wider impact of the criminal justice system. Our goal is to ignite a broad, sustained conversation about the dangers of over-incarceration and the imperative to mobilize behind rational and humane policies. As an organization of writers dedicated to promoting free expression and informed discourse, PEN America is honored to have been entrusted by the Art for Justice Fund to engage the literary community in addressing this pressing societal issue.

Applications Open: January 15, 2021

Deadline to apply: 11:59pm EST on February 15, 2021

### GUIDELINES

Please read the following closely, as our application requirements have changed and our program has shifted due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Writing for Justice Fellowship is open-genre, and proposed writing projects, which must be authored by the applicant, may include—but are not limited to—fictional stories; works of literary or long-form journalism; theatrical scripts; memoirs; poetry collections; or multimedia projects. The most competitive applications will demonstrate how the proposed project will engage issues of reform, fuel public debate, crystallize concepts of reform, and facilitate the possibility of societal change. As part of our mission to stimulate discussion, emphasis will be placed on proposed projects that show strong promise for publication. Fellows must commit to contribute actively to bringing attention to their work and that of other Fellows. The Fellowship is open to writers at any stage of their career. Currently and formerly incarcerated writers are highly encouraged to apply, and special provisions will be made for incarcerated writers to participate through

alternative methods.

Fellows will receive an honorarium of between \$5,000-\$8,000, based on scope of project. Fellows will be paired with a mentor to serve as a source of guidance for the project, and the cohort will convene at least twice for intensive shared experiences either digitally or in person, depending on the pandemic's continued impact. PEN America will draw on the Writing for Justice Advisory Committee, as well as its network of agents, editors, publishers, partner organizations and outlets in order to assist efforts for publication and dissemination of the work of the Fellows. Opportunities for sharing the created work through public forums will be organized in New York City, in the Fellow's home community, and possibly additional locations.

### FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE

The first eight months of the Fellowship are designed for Fellows to research, create, and connect with mentors and the cohort, working toward submission of a polished final product that is ready for publication. The final four months of the Fellowship will focus on placing the works for public dissemination and opportunities for Fellows to present their work publicly.

January 15, 2021: Application opens

February 15, 2021 11:59pm EST: Deadline to apply

May 2021: Applicants notified of final application status

May 2021-December 2021: Fellows work on their projects, meet with mentors

April 2021: Cohort meeting #1 (NYC or digital)

September 2021: Cohort meeting #2 (Location TBD or digital)

Late December 2021: Work completed and submitted for publication

January 2022-May 2022: Placing work and local public presentations

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this Fellowship, the applicant must be

- 21 years of age or older.
- An individual writer. Collaborative projects are acceptable, but only one project lead may apply and participate in the Fellowship's activities.
- Residing in the United States during the Fellowship duration.

- Available to participate actively in all dimensions of Fellowship programming, including mandatory gatherings and public programs. (The Fellowship will cover costs associated with these events, separately from the Fellowship honorarium.) Currently incarcerated writers and formerly incarcerated writers restricted by parole will participate through alternative means.

- Able to demonstrate a track record of successful projects brought to completion on time.

Membership in PEN America is not required. Please see FAQs below for more information.

### SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Given the highly competitive nature of this Fellowship, we advise using discretion in your project application. As a literary Fellowship, awarded projects must center writing as a critical mode of expression in the work, rather than a secondary or supporting aspect of the project. Applicants should be the main writer/creator (rather than editor or compiler) of the work. Fellows will be selected on artistic merit, the project's approach and potential for impact, and the feasibility of project to be fully completed and in polished, publishable form within the given time frame. Applications will be reviewed by PEN America and expert advisers through an anonymous process.

Applications close at 11:59pm EST on February 15 2021. Fellows will be announced in May 2021.

### HOW TO APPLY

Closely review all required materials listed below. Please be mindful of the specific application requests. Failure to follow instructions carefully may result in disqualification. Late applications will not be accepted. We suggest you submit early to avoid technical issues. Applicants may only submit one project proposal to the Fellowship.

There is no fee to apply to the Writing for Justice Fellowship.

All non-incarcerated ap-

plicants are required to submit online through Submittable.

Currently incarcerated writers who cannot submit via a proxy online are welcome to submit by sending application materials (preferably typed, but clean, legible handwritten applications will also be accepted) to the address below:

Writing For Justice Fellowship

588 Broadway, Suite 303  
New York, NY 10012  
REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

Please login to the application system in advance of submitting, to become familiar with the format materials are requested in.

Typed materials should be:

- 11 or 12 pt standard font (Times New Roman, Arial)
- Spaced at 1 or 1.15
- One-inch margins

Currently incarcerated writers should follow formatting to the best of their ability and estimate word count as closely as possible. We will not disqualify applications for being reasonably over count.

1. Cover Page:

Include name, address, telephone number, email address, and title of the proposed project. Online applicants will fill this information out in the Submittable form.

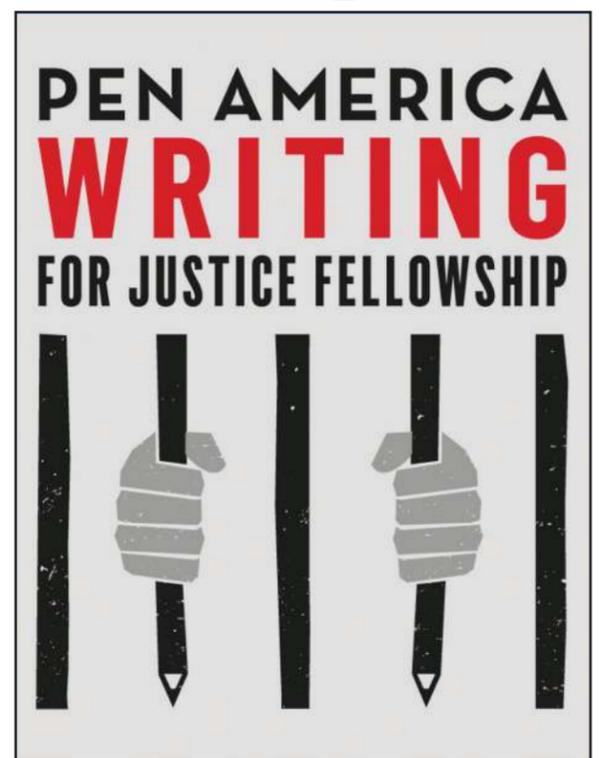
2. Project Title and Brief Description (maximum of 100 words):

Please do not include your name or any other identifying information on any part of the Project Title and Brief Description. Online applicants will fill this information out in the Submittable form.

3. Project Proposal (maximum of 750 words):

Online applicants will fill this information out in the Submittable form. Do not include your name or any other identifying information on any part of the Project Proposal. Please respond to the following questions:

- Describe the project, including genre, relevance to the topic of mass incarceration, and the geographic regions your project addresses.
- Share what is new and significant about your project's approach and why it matters. What inspired your choices and interest?
- Where are you in the timeline of your project? What work



do you hope to accomplish during the eight-month creation portion of the Fellowship? What resources would be most helpful in this process? What form of mentorship would your project most benefit from? (E.g., a writer in your genre, an editor, an expert in an aspect of criminal justice/mass incarceration, etc.)

4. Work sample: 7-10 pages of your written work, or 5 files of multimedia (video, audio, visual). You may submit a combination of both, adding up to the maximum (2 files and 8 pages of writing, for example.) Media files that require watching or listening should be under fifteen minutes in length in total. If you are applying with a project

that is already in motion, the work sample content should reflect this. Please do not include your name on any part of the Work Sample, including the file name. Typed work samples should be submitted in the same single file (.doc, .docx or PDF) and formatted with one inch margins and 1.15 or 1.5 spacing. Online applicants will submit as an attachment.

5. Biographical Context (maximum of 500 words): Briefly introduce yourself as a creator. This might be an artist/career biography to express past accomplishments, a statement of philosophy and approach, or an overview of your current practice and/or creative mission. Online applicants will fill this information out in the Submittable form.

6. Optional CV (maximum of 2 pages): Encouraged, but not required. Applicants who do not include a CV will not be penalized. Online applicants will fill submit as an attachment.

7. References: Submit three reference names and contact information that can speak to applicant's track record of success and completion of past projects. These are not letters of reference. This is required for non-incarcerated writers. Incarcerated writers are not required to supply references, but encouraged to do so if possible. Online applicants will fill this information out in the Submittable form. References will only be contacted for Fellowship finalists.