

San Quentin News



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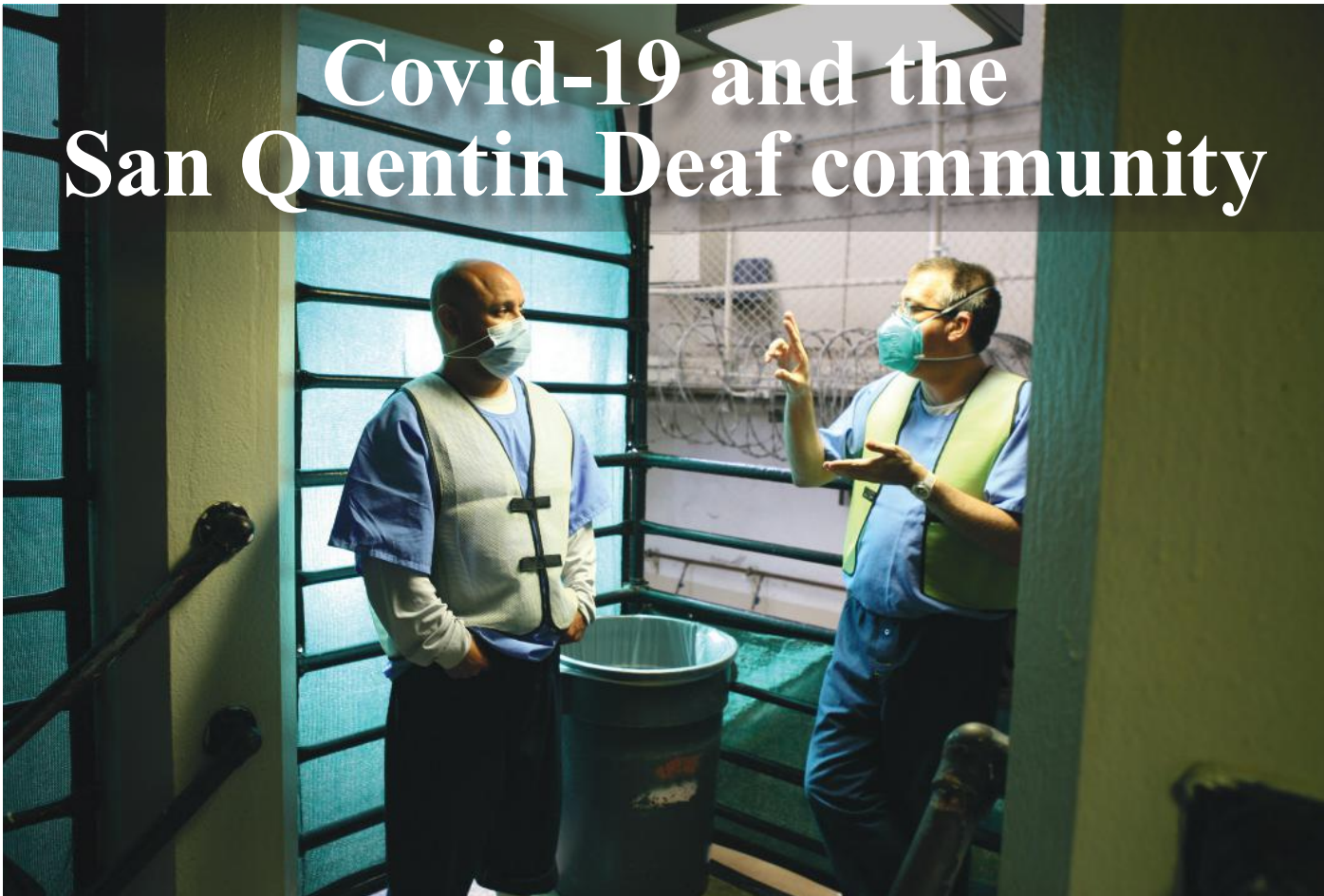
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Covid-19 and the San Quentin Deaf community



Phoeun You, SQNews

San Quentin's new Protestant chaplain, Rev. Yat Ang, plans to start strong and guide parishioners to a closer walk with God.

By Timothy Hicks
Staff Writer

After arriving at San Quentin a new community of unique deaf people had to endure a prison programming change and a devastating COVID-19 outbreak.

"My COVID experience was awful," said Jaime Paredes, SQ incarcerated deaf resident. "We were housed in North Block, but was getting quarantine in Badger Unit. We (the deaf community) was on the same tier but we were spread out. Tommy (Wickerd) was are only incarcerated interpreter.

"We had to make a string line to connect to Tommy's cell, so he could yell 'Man Down' if anyone needed emergency medical help," he added.

After five days, Wickerd was able to inform Associate Warden Albirton about the challenges and the deaf residents were sent back to North Block, said Paredes.

"As for SQ programming today, I'm like Wow! It's like a little town here," said Paredes. "I'm here to work on myself and become a productive member of society."

It took multiple court battles, before prison officials conceded to allow deaf people to function on non-handicap prison yards. San Quentin has a small American Sign Language (ASL) class led by incarcerated Wickerd. The state provides outside interpreters for the deaf residents who attends school, vocation and self-help groups.

"I am deaf and transgender and during the COVID outbreak it was a pain to communicate without an interpreter," said Cristina Tos-

te. "Since the prison is opening back up I love San Quentin everybody has been nice. The C/Os (correctional officers) need more training with ADA issues. I have been trying so hard to help them understand how they can do a better job when it comes to the deaf community."

Toste said she enjoys her Transition pre-release/re-entry planning class and LGBTQ support group.

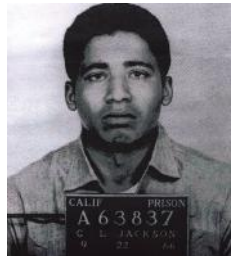
At other prisons the deaf may be subjected to harsher treatments from other incarcerated people and or prison staff.

"Deaf people may serve longer prison terms than their hearing counterparts," said

See DEAF on page 4

50 years later:

The death of George Jackson and the bloodiest day in San Quentin history



See JACKSON on page 8

Domestic abuse program aims to expand

By Vincent E. O'Bannon
Staff Writer

The Awareness Into Domestic Abuse (AIDA) process group aims to transform the belief system of men who view women as inferior.

"The core issues we seek to address and change are men's need to have power and control within intimate partner relationships," said group founder Floyd D. Collins.

Recognizing the need to address issues of domestic abuse, five men formed AIDA at Soledad State Prison in 2014.

"There are many domestic abuse programs here in California, but AIDA's core focus is helping those incarcerated to learn from their distorted belief system and teach them how to have healthy effective relationships," said Vanessa Collins, co-founder and deputy director of the AIDA non-profit organization.

One in three women and one in four men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner, reported AIDA



Phoeun You, SQNews

AIDA co-founder Floyd D. Collins (third from left) and other facilitators seek to teach men to overcome issues of power and control in their relationships. Harry Goodall Jr., Michael Beaudette, Steven Warren, Jesus Escobar and Jerry Gearing.

"Our call to action is to bring awareness to the major forms of abuse, and all the people affected by it," said Vanessa Collins.

Many programs advocate that in order to stop the cycle of violence, a change in thinking must occur.

"When a person commits to change, the results of one's commitment will be change," said Floyd.

Prior to the paralyzing effect that COVID-19 had on shutting down the prison system, the AIDA group sought time and space to hold its weekly process groups here at San Quentin.

"At present, we are still looking for the space to hold process group meetings and are exploring the options of being a sub-group of Kid-Kat. Or we will continue to hold small process groups on the yard," said Floyd, who transferred to SQ in 2019. "That is my commitment to the SQ community," Floyd added.

See AIDA on page 4

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Reverend Yat Ang, SQ’s new Protestant Chaplain



Phoeun You, SQNews

“I’m here to serve, not for myself, but for you.”
—Chaplain Yat Ang

By Anthony Manuel
Carvalho and
Richard Fernandez

Independence Day marked a new beginning for San Quentin’s Garden Chapel, as Mother Jackson’s replacement was introduced to the Protestant congregation.

Chaplain Yat Ang, a leader of Tracy’s DVI Protestant Chapel for the past five years was transferred to the prison on June 25. At his first Spanish service and English service, newly appointed incarcerated pastor, Sergio Alvarez invited the congregations to “Give God all praise and glory, by letting the new Chaplain lead our church.” Ang only had nine days to prepare for his first sermon while unpacking.

A humble similar to Mother Jackson, Chaplain Ang announced to God’s followers, “I’m here to serve, not for myself, but for you. At DVI, I Baptized 319 men in 2019 and 80 in pre-pandemic 2020, for a total of 399.

Prior to DVI, he was in ministry for 20 years at community hospitals which included studying at Loma Linda Hospital in Ontario, CA, and a hospital in Walla Walla, Michigan.

The Chaplain identified Brother in Christ Robert Hunter, who was sitting in the front row. Hunter was one of his baptisms at DVI. “I hope I will baptize many more here,” said Chaplain Ang.

Hunter, preparing to go home soon, told of Chaplain Ang’s style at DVI. “He was there for us when I was at DVI. He baptized me and many other Christian Brothers and, more importantly, provided life-skills classes and cultural movies that helped us grow. For us, he was much more than baptisms. Believe me, Chaplain Ang is a true man of God and he is the right person for the job.”

The Chaplain continued, “I hope for a strong start and want you to know that you will not see the kingdom of God unless you are born again.” He then promised a variety of thing for programs; such as movies and classes that will attempt to bring back the capacity of the congregation to pre-pandemic numbers. Maximum occupancy before COVID was 370.

His brief introduction directed the 110 incarcerated Christians, “You should be born again daily.”



Phoeun You, SQNews

San Quentin’s new Protestant chaplain, Rev. Yat Ang, plans to start strong and guide parishioners to a closer walk with God.

Understanding he was taking over for a Chaplain who captivated God’s followers with His word, he reiterated, “I hope for a good strong start and know, I’m here to serve you and the Lord and if you need anything on the spiritual side, my door is open as I’m here to help you walk closer to the Lord.” He also will add a new wrinkle by supplying music books for the entire congregation, so they will be able to sing with the choir.

Chaplain Ang, reminded the crowd of the dire times they had just gone through and stated, “We want to be ready for Jesus Christ’s coming...we must be ready”

Minister Armando Gonzalez, who just received a date to go home said, “We showed him today how we operate and he showed a humble acceptance. Chaplain Ang’s first thumbprint was having the entire church kneel during communion. Personally, I have had a short interaction with him, but feel how humble and blessed he is.” Gonzalez continued, “The new Chaplain’s family lives far away in the Central Valley and we pray he can move them here soon.”

“He is different than mother and still we are praying for his success.”

Incarcerated persons Angel, Rosendo Perez and Jaime Martinez attended the morning first Spanish event run by Chaplain Ang. Angel told *SQ News* that, “I didn’t know Mother Jackson. As for Chaplain Ang, it is too soon to know how he will quench my spiritual thirst — I’m just hoping he teaches us and lifts us up in the Word. Perez shared

his experience, by saying, “... his years of experience were apparent and I know he will be doing the best he can. Kneeling down during communion was good too.”

The second Protestant Spanish brother, Martinez complimented Chaplain Ang and showed signs of encouragement. Martinez said, “(The Chaplain) speaks real well in his words and prayers. We want to see more of him.”

The translation of Ang’s sermons into Spanish were not of concern to the brothers, all they desired was to hear the Word.

Other Christians reviewed the English chapel service on the yard.

Minister Trent Woodmore Jr. said, “I get on my knees every day in my cell to Worship the Lord, so communion on the knee is natural. As for the service, Chaplain Ang brought a reverence to the Lord and that is always stressed in our chapel. It was great that he reminded us to have a heart for the Lord.” A senior member of the congregation, Woodmore continued, “Chaplain Ang is obviously a man of God who is full of humility.”

The final senior member to offer observance of the Chaplain’s first sermons was Minister Dwight Johnson. Incarcerated person Johnson said “Chaplain Ang has reverence and a blessed hope in his approach which is not a bad thing. (Since the quarantine) we have a lot of new people who need to learn how to be reverent. We are fortunate the new chaplain seems humble, ready and willing to serve and I really like his open door policy.”

The Chaplain pledged to incorporate outside church leaders, bands and musicians. He also said he would continue to develop Christian leaders from the judicially challenged population at San Quentin. In fact, the Chaplain said in the future that he would strive to expand the leadership of the congregation to 3 elders; 3 deacons to 12 where after the congregation worships, the elders can go and pray with them. He also to *SQ News* that he would continue seasonal traditions like the Annual Christmas Banquet, The Thanksgiving Celebration, The Easter Banquet and the well-loved Christmas Caroling.

To accomplish these tasks and others which will include professional bands playing gospel music, he Chaplain pray for assistance from the regular outside volunteers, of which, only 4 have been approved since the prison was re-opened. “We need the volunteers to return,” said Chaplain Ang.

SQ News asked the Chaplain’s views about social reform. He firmly believes San Quentin has more opportunities to heal and get spiritually stronger than any other prison in the State.

With a heavy list of tasks to accomplish for the Chaplain to leave his footprint on the most famous prison church in the country, he first must awaiting housing on San Quentin’s property for him and his family.

New, incarcerated pastor, Sergio Alvarez said, “Please, give him time to unpack.”

With new leaders taking over at Garden Chapel who support Chaplain Ang, the congregation is ready and willing to follow.



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A robotic dog makes its debut at TechCrunch exhibition. Similar machines have been deployed by police forces and around the world.

San Quentin News

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The *San Quentin News* encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles, poetry and artwork. All submissions become property of the *San Quentin News*.

Guidelines for submission:

>> Articles should be limited to 350 words and may be edited for content, clarity and length.
>> Articles should be newsworthy and pertain to the prison populace and/or the criminal justice system.
>> Letters to the Editor should be short, clear and to the point.
>> Please do not submit material that is offensive, racist, sexist, or derogatory toward any group, as it will not be published.

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Celebration, criminalization, and the future of modern policing?

EDITORIAL

By **Marcus Henderson**
Editor in Chief

Loud cheers erupted in San Quentin housing units as former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of second degree murder and charges of manslaughter of George Floyd. Chauvin kneeled on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes, an action that set-off worldwide protests.

"That was the first time I ever rooted for the prosecution," voices screamed over the five tiers.

More cheers and celebrations exploded throughout the nation when the U.S. Congress and President Joe Biden signed legislation to make Juneteenth (the final end of slavery) a federal holiday.

In spite of all the joy and celebration, Congress still has not passed the George Floyd Act that would ban police choke-holds, no knock warrants and "blanket" qualified immunity for officers.

Republicans recently have taken the lead in voter suppression with new photo ID

laws, limiting the number of mailing voter drop boxes, and the criminalization of giving food and drinks to voters standing in line to vote.

Some Republican-led states have also passed "protest" laws where it's legal to run over protestors blocking traffic. What?! There are laws being passed to criminalize abortion, homelessness and transgender rights.

But there is no support for a bi-partisan commission on the January 6 Capital riot, where five people died, including police officers. It was just like any other day when people come to visit the Capital, said one Republican congressman.

Confederate flags were waved through the halls, boots were placed on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's desk, chants of "Kill Vice President Mike Pence" echoed in the halls, and congressmen and -women hid in chambers—yeah! That's a happy day?

As some of us sit in prison slowly watching the silent criminalization of everyday society, what went underreported was that the New York Police Department marched a 70-pound police robotic dog through a Manhattan public housing complex, according to the New York Times.

The four-legged digital dog was deployed for a hostage situation, reported the Times. The robotic dog has been shown on videos running and dancing with human-like flexibility. It also is strong enough to tow an 18-wheeler.

There are roughly 500 robotic dogs in the field worldwide, said a spokesperson for Boston Dynamics (creator of the robots), according to the article. I grew up watching Robot Cop and Terminator in the '80s and a lot of times the films did not end well. Just like in the movies, these robotic dogs are remote controlled (by whom?) with limitless data capacity and cameras for surveillance. But this company said it doesn't use artificial intelligence, noted the Times article.

There is legislation to ban the NYPD from weaponizing the robots as well as drones. We will have to see how that goes. Isn't it strange that these devices are being introduced into the communities of poor people of color?—where the outcry can be squashed.

Could it just be a testing ground for the rest of society? In prison, there are slight policy changes all the time that can have a major impact. So I can just imagine the effects of

the new laws on law abiding citizens.

Criminalization seems to be grounded in fear, blaming criminal justice and social reforms for the rise in crime. While most people released from prison, mainly former lifers, have processed their traumas and learned some form of emotional intelligence, these things have to be demonstrated to be released by the parole board.

But we are not teaching emotional intelligence in school. The country is busy debating if we should be teaching "Critical Race Theory" (the historical perspective of all races and not just Whites) in school. We have become so scared of each other—people believe their way of life is being threatened. These are the new "culture wars."

The reality is if one shifts too much to the "Right" or too much to the "Left," one would become off balance. So, are the country and the state of our affairs off balance? Have we lost so much of our humanity that we have to be guarded by robotic dogs? Why do I even have to ask the question?

By **Charles Crowe**
Staff Writer

"Life without parole (LWOP) sentences are steadily replacing the death penalty across the United States," reported The Marshall Project in a recent article. But the accused in LWOP prosecutions are entitled to only a fraction of the legal resources and defenses afforded to defendants in death penalty cases.

These disparities are illustrated in the case of Shuranda Williams, who faces capital murder charges in Dallas, Texas.

Prosecutors seek life without parole rather than the death penalty in Williams' case. "If prosecutors had announced they were seeking the death penalty, Williams would have been guaranteed a pair of lawyers whose expertise in capital cases has been vetted by a court-appointed screening committee," said The Marshall Project.

"The government would have paid for an investigator and a mental health expert to examine her case. And under national legal guidelines, her lawyers would have had a special obligation to aggressively assert every possible argument to defend her.

"But because Williams could face life without parole — a sentence that also means she would die behind bars — she didn't get any of that."

The American Bar Association has guidelines for lawyers representing defendants in death penalty cases. These guidelines call for extensive related experience and knowledge and the engagement of investigators and mental health experts.

Some states, including Texas where Williams is charged, follow these guidelines. But in most cases the guidelines do not apply to life without parole cases.

Eleven states require minimum qualifications for lawyers handling life without parole defenses. In Texas, where Williams' case will be tried, the debate continues over the

Life-without-parole sentences steadily replacing the death pentalty in America

standards applicable to LWOP cases, said the nonprofit Sixth Amendment Center.

Some legal experts argue that LWOP defendants should receive the same representation as those in death penalty cases. "Life without parole is just another form of the death penalty, just a slower version of it," said Lawrence Myers, a 20-year veteran of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

"The idea that you would treat these cases like you would treat other felonies is somewhat incomprehensible to me," said Pamela Metzger, director of the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center at Southern Methodist University. "The sentencing stakes are so high and often irreversible."

But the relative ease of prosecuting LWOP cases has drawn prosecutions. "Life without parole trials cost thousands of dollars less than death penalty cases. They are shorter, involve fewer lawyers, allow limited appeals and often end in plea deals before trial," said the article.

San Antonio district attorney Joe Gonzales describes life without parole as a vital tool for prosecutors, noting that for families of victims, "dealing with the tragedy of losing someone they love, knowing that the person who killed them is going to be in prison forever is enough."

Meanwhile, prosecuting the death penalty is increasingly challenging. Gallup reports that American support for the ultimate punishment is waning. Death sentences declined to 18 last year as prosecutors turned to life without parole sentencing. But "prosecutors have

found that jurors are less squeamish about locking people up for the rest of their lives."

The nationwide count of people on death row is about 2,500, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. In contrast, about 56,000 people are serving LWOP sentences, up 66% from 2003, said The Sentencing Project, a group that advocates shorter prison sentences.

"Half the people serving life without parole are locked up in just five states: California, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Only Alaska doesn't permit this punishment," said The Marshall Project.

Over 60% of those serving LWOP sentences are Black according to Brandon Garrett, a Duke University law professor who has studied the decline in capital punishment. "Prosecutors have gone wild with life without parole sentences — but in particular counties and for particular marginalized people," said Garrett.

While many are serving LWOP sentences for violent offenses such as murder, hundreds are serving life without parole in drug cases.

In Williams' case, she was together with her brother and another man when she purchased drugs from the victim, Anthony Burks. Then she left to go to a party, she said.

A surveillance video shows her "knocking on Burks' door, talking to him, then gesturing to her brother and the other man. They say she conferred with the men in her car before leaving. Within half an hour, law enforcement says, the men knocked on the door and shot

Burks, 46, killing him in the course of a robbery," said the article.

Williams denies any knowledge of a robbery or a murder. Eight days later she was arrested with a trace amount of cocaine, charged with possession and capital murder.

In Texas, where Williams is charged, a commission that oversees public defense calls for all defendants in capital cases, such as Williams, to receive representation from a list of lawyers approved for such cases.

The lawyer appointed to Williams' case is not approved for death penalty cases and has not engaged an investigator or mental health expert for her defense. In jail for more than a year, she has received one letter and one visit from her attorney, and he has not returned her calls.

Williams has sent at least a dozen letters to the judge overseeing her case, asking for help with her attorney, for a bond reduction, and wondering why she is not appearing in a courtroom. "Her court date had been postponed 14 times," said The Marshall Project.

The Marshall Project and The Dallas Morning News sought comment from the judge overseeing Williams' case. The following day the judge appointed a new lawyer to the case, one from a list of lawyers approved for death penalty cases.

The new lawyer declined to comment until he has had time to review Williams' case. "Everybody is so excited for me because they said he is a great lawyer," said Williams. "They were saying 'Now you have somebody fighting for you!'"

San Quentin’s Deaf community and COVID

DEAF

Continued from page 1

Prison Legal Office attorney, Rita Lomio in an interview. “Because they are not able to equally access educational and rehabilitative programming.”

There are almost a hundred programs at San Quentin and they are available to everyone who wants to apply. However, being deaf can be a challenge trying to get in some of them. It’s extremely hard after COVID.

When the deaf population arrived they wanted to know was there a designated place for them to hang out at on the yard said one of the new residents. With the help of the officials they were given a specific place.

Other challenges the new deaf residents faced were the numerous alarms that sounded off during the day at San Quentin and the men had to get down on the ground, when they heard them. Fortunately,

the residents at San Quentin were considerate to their needs.

Wickerd interprets and gives the deaf residents tours of the prison. He also has a hearing impaired celly.

“The trip part about having this particular deaf celly,” expressed Wickerd. “Is that his name is Chris and he looks just like my brother too.

“I taught sign at Lancaster prison where I was able to relay messages of change from gang members and testimony from youngsters on peer pressure and choices,” Wickerd added. “So, doing this is a pleasure.”

Wickerd bought nine deaf residents to the San Quentin News room in their green vest, to ask questions and look at the scenery.

There are currently almost 100 Deaf people incarcerated within CDCR. A majority are currently housed in the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF). According to some prisoner rights advocates, housing these individuals at SATF makes it difficult to provide them needed interpretation services.

In a letter from Don Specter, Director of Prison Law Office to Ralph M. Diaz, then Secretary of CDCR, Specter wrote that housing Deaf people at San Quentin will allow them to “have improved access to interpretation services; to more and varied programs, services, and activities; to community groups familiar with their needs.”

“I love the environment and everybody spoke to me,” said Dubose Scarborough, via sign language through an interpreter. He came from Corcoran State Prison with four years left in his prison term. He looks forward to doing the vocational programs.

The American Disabilities Act (ADA) provides protections for the deaf to be treated equal as the those with non-disability, examples like Phone calls, TDD, telecommunication devices for deaf persons at the hours of phone use for non-handicap and other services.

“I’m pleased with how the deaf and hard of hearing community is treated here,” said Richard Acosta. “It definitely been a life changing experience living with so many positive inmates around me. I look forward going forward with the ASL classes and joining the 1,000 Mile running club.”



Phoeun You, SQNews

“I’m here to serve, not for myself, but for you.”
—Chaplain Yat Ang

AIDA

Continued from page 1

Of the five founding group members, two remain incarcerated; Floyd D. Collins and Deveron Ratliff.

Paroled were Jarret Keith (2015), James Willock (2020), and Vinh Nguyen (2021).

“I am proud of the seed that we planted at CTF-Soledad and with Deveron continuing the mission of AIDA there along with the new team that includes Vince Rivera, Ray Feliz and Raul Garcia,” said Floyd.

The organization distributes a quarterly newsletter called The AIDA Chronicles.

AIDA: Domestic abuse program aims to expand

“Our newsletter gives members and contributing writers a platform in which to share their stories of intimate partner violence and change,” said Vanessa Collins.

“Our hope is to become a 52-week batterer intervention program with our own curriculum and become a recognized program within all CDCR institutions,” she continued. “Long-term, we would love to start a transitional house to help those re-entering society.”

AIDA plans to provide process groups, workshops and mentoring programs for men, women, youth and teens, and currently provides a correspondence course called AIDA by mail.

AIDA’s process groups would be held inside county jails, juvenile detention centers and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, according to Vanessa Collins.

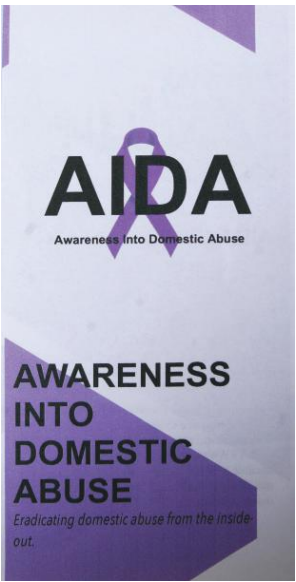
AIDA coordinates with nearly a dozen or so incarcerated organizers who collectively

recruit members to submit stories and fund raise (collect stamps to help with postage), as they are non-funded.

San Quentin’s group is known as AIDA Group SQ and its members are Floyd D. Collins (the founder), Harry Goodall Jr., Michael Beaudette, Steven Warren, Jesus Escobar and Jerry Gearing.

“A lot of abusers are unaware that domestic violence is more than just physical. My living amends is to bring awareness and enlightenment

to those who still possess blinds spots in their thinking that lead to perpetrating an ongoing cycle of violence within intimate relationships,” Floyd concluded.



Bob Goff: Celebrated motivational speaker returns



Phoeun You, SQNews

“I’m here to serve, not for myself, but for you.”
—Chaplain Yat Ang

By Charles Crowe
Staff Writer

Motivational speaker Bob Goff returned to San Quen-

tin’s Chapel B in July with his annual message of inspiration for the prison’s residents. It was his first visit to the facility in almost 17 months.

Goff’s appearances were becoming an annual tradition at San Quentin until they were interrupted by the 14-month Covid-19 lockdown. He last visited the prison Feb., 2020, less than three weeks before the virus outbreak caused all such events to be cancelled.

The upbeat and humorous speaker was accompanied by colleagues Dae Erikson and Jody Luke. He usually comes to San Quentin with a larger contingent, but some of his regular companions were not able to attend the event this year. They asked Bob, Dae, and Jody to relay their greetings and well wishes to the men of San Quentin.

Several themes emerged during the event. Goff talked about the irony of finding virtue in the least likely places. He explained that encounters with those who are hungry, or thirsty, or in prison, are akin to encounters with Jesus. For him and his entourage therefore, visits to San Quentin are very meaningful.

Goff advised his listeners to “Think about what you want and why you want it.” He shared a humorous personal story about his efforts to obtain “a date,” which began in junior high school and continued beyond his college years before concluding successful-

ly. He told the story to provide an example of pursuing goals persistently.

With another anecdote he encouraged his audience to consider, “What’s already adjacent to me?” To illustrate, he related a tale about buying land to use for a retreat center. When those plans were thwarted by the Covid-19 pandemic, he utilized adjacent land as an equestrian center to generate funds to help finance the original land purchase.

Goff’s colleague Jody Luke talked to the men about an idea she called “defiant joy.” She described this joy as one not just felt, but chosen. She went on to warn that fear is the thief of joy. “I want you to know that you are valued,” she said. “I hope that you’re not ruled by fear, but by a defiant joy.”

The other member of Goff’s entourage, Dae Erikson, also spoke to the audience. She described the encouragement she feels when she sees what incarcerated men accomplish under difficult circumstances. “You do so much with what you have and the space you’ve been given,” she said.

San Quentin resident Rafael Bankston followed the guest speakers with an inspirational message titled “Destination Dream Big.” He had seen the

words “Dream Big” on a sign at San Quentin’s baseball field and was inspired to write his piece. He exhorted the men in the Chapel to set goals and to focus on them persistently, reinforcing the message delivered earlier by Goff.

Following Bankston’s talk, the audience formed into three circles to discuss “what is working, what is not working, and what character trait is being developed as a result.” The circles were facilitated by Bob, Dae and Jody.

In the discussion of “what is not working,” several of the men mentioned that they are struggling with lack of personal contact with family as a result of current restrictions on visiting. Not surprisingly, perseverance was the most commonly reported character trait that is being developed under these conditions.

At the end of the evening, certificates were presented to graduates of a Bob Goff workshop held prior to the lockdown. Notably, many of the men whose names were called to receive the certificates were not present because they had paroled since the lockdown began.

Earlier in the day the Goff group spent time with San Quentin’s FIRSTWATCH production team, preparing

a mini-documentary to be titled “Lost Dreamers.” It is planned that the film will air on a major network during the Thanksgiving or Christmas holidays this year.

This will be one of the first such projects by an incarcerated film crew. Still photos taken during the shoot are already receiving favorable comments on social media, a member of the crew reported.

The evening event in the Chapel was shorter than originally planned because the visitors had to catch a flight for their return trip to San Diego. Accordingly, there was not time for post-event conversations that usually follow the group’s visits. Goff closed the meeting with a prayer, and promised that when he next returns to San Quentin, he will bring a magician to entertain the residents.

Whenever Goff visits San Quentin he evokes warm responses from the men in blue. When asked about his impression of Goff, resident and event attendee Jessie Rose said, “When I get his age I hope and pray I’m enjoying life like he is. His energy is super-positive, just infectious.”

Programs continued in spite of quarantines

By **Anthony Manuel
Carvalho**
Staff Writer

Lockdown pressures during the 15-month state of emergency at San Quentin State Prison did not rid all prisoners from programming. The importance of programming was emphasized during Commissioner Robert Barton’s suggestion to an incarcerated resident at his board hearing on December 17, 2020. “...Even in Covid, you have a support network on the outside, reach out to them. There’s many correspondence courses; PREP [Partnership for Re-Entry Program], Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP), Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training (TRUST)), etc. There is a bunch of them out there. ...they all have DV (Domestic Violence) courses—have them get one you can do by correspondence...,” said Commissioner Barton in the board hearing.

Other courses included, Mount Tamalpais College, Coastline College, GED Education, Vocational Classes such as Computer Literacy, Building Maintenance and E-Learning classes. GRIP participants who completed their coursework will receive diplomas, while graduates are still awaiting time reduction credits (milestones). TRUST and its executive staff allowed its students to continue or step aside as well, with assurances of maintaining their place in the class upon re-opening. TRUST also decided to offer a voluntary “Reflections” course that allows the incarcerated to delve deeper into emotional intelligence and mindfulness while locked down. PREP is a Restorative Justice course that allows incarcerated residents the opportunity to continue rehabilitation in lieu of classroom programming. PREP’s Yard and Head Facilitator at the prison is incarcerated person Michael

Beaudette. Beaudette began facilitating programs in 2015. He has serviced prisoners in West Block, North Block and now Alpine. The assistant facilitators are Donald “New York” Edge in South Block, Ed Mansolf/Steve Parks in West Block and Richard Fernandez in North Block. Currently Beaudette is looking for Hispanic representatives to facilitate the Latinx community. “PREP is an excellent program as are all the other correspondence classes we offer here,” said Edge. “I hope more people get involved. It seems like they (the courses) are a kept secret. The courses and the dedication to our rehabilitation is very important to each and every one of us; to our victims and to society. Everyone here at San Quentin should know we have excellent facilitators in each building to help out and we are available to help anyone out.” PREP includes 14 curriculums with 13 to 40 lessons.

Beaudette also directs the incarcerated other support organizations such as Life Support Alliances, ACCI, Hustle 20, Crimanon and AIDA (Awareness in Domestic Abuse). Incarcerated facilitator Floyd Collins who transferred from CTF, Soledad, founded AIDA. Currently, only the incarcerated population at Soledad can receive time reduction credits, called Rehabilitative Achievement Credits (RAC), for completing the AIDA curriculum. Collins and Beaudette aim to get RAC credits for San Quentin participants of all correspondence courses. “We get ROC’s (Recognition of Completion) instead of RACs, after we finish each class in PREP. Before Covid, CDCR allowed only one lesson to be completed per week. During the quarantine administration increased that to 2 lessons per week during the lockdown.” Beaudette emphasizes programming is continual-

ly available through PREP which is run by the founder, Sister Mary Sean Hodges and managed by Tony Kim. Beaudette said that once a participant completes a course, it would be recorded into that person’s central file. He also said the courses are all inclusive and non-denominational. “Our main focus is change through insight,” Beaudette said. ***** Javier Perez has spent four hours a day on PREP’s classes and has completed the Domestic Violence and Victim Impact curriculum. He started February, but said, “The classes are great...I work very hard learning about remorse and accountability. These classes show me I will be learning the rest of my life and will help prepare me for the Board in December.” Danny Armendariz, 73-years-old, started in early March. He has already

completed two courses. Armendariz who has been incarcerated for 18 years is eligible for the parole in about three years. He studies 4 to 6 hours per day. He’s completed certificates in Critical Thinking and Victim Awareness. “I love PREP,” Armendariz said. “I learned more about my emotions and how to plan for my contributions to society. I specifically learned amends are not a simple apology, it is a spiritual change in your life that allows your victims to see you truly seek their enlightened forgiveness by doing the next right thing.” “This is a chance to specifically address your issues that led to your crime..., what you’re going to do to combat recidivism... as our program emphasizes (CBT) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and it is duly noted by the Board,” Beaudette said.

Soledad – On May 28, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at Correctional Training Facility (CTF) for the first Veterans Hub in the nation with the capacity to eventually house some 1,200 incarcerated Veterans, the largest program of its kind. The facility will offer programs and services to better coordinate delivery of VA benefits for eligible Veterans serving sentences in state prison, as well as provide targeted rehabilitative programs. “Our collective focus and goal in CDCR is to promote rehabilitation and ensure the incarcerated population has the services, resources and tools they need while they’re serving their time, but more importantly, when they are released in our communities,” said CDCR Secretary Kathleen Allison. “I appreciate our Veterans for their services, and I am very proud of this effort, and of the dedica-

CTF in Soledad launches innovative Veterans hub for incarcerated Vets

tion and commitment of our staff and our partners.” Eligible veterans will be housed with and be offered an array of programming including some unique to the unit: veteran mentorship, support groups and the new Canine Life Program which teaches and places highly educated service dogs with veterans and first responders suffering from PTSD. “We strive to reinvigorate those characteristics by reminding the men of their past accomplishments,” said CTF Warden Craig Koenig. “The program is not just about access to the men by outside stakeholders interested in giving the men their veteran benefits, which is incredibly important. We are striving

to give the men back their lives.” U.S. Congressman Jimmy Panetta was in attendance. The raising of the colors was done by the CTF Veterans Hub Honor Guard, and the National Anthem was sung by CTF Veteran Derek Holmes. Additionally, the invocation was done by CTF Veteran Tom Daniels, the Veterans Hub Chaplain. The facility is comprised of five housing units that can house more than 200 individuals per building. Each building will be are purposed unit within the prison. The improvements were paid for through a partnership with Veterans Healing Veterans from The Inside Out and other charitable organizations.

(<http://veteranshealingveterans.com/index.html>) The veteran-focused facility is the realization of a vision that began in 2019. CTF partnered with VHV Founder and Executive Director Ron Self, a highly decorated Marine veteran who earned a PhD in behavioral studies from Quantico while in the Marines and was honorably discharged in 1997. He later served time in prison, where he founded Veterans Healing Veterans from The Inside Out (VHV-FTIO) and paroled in 2017. Since his parole in 2017, Self has been an essential supporter of the Veterans Yard and worked closely with CDCR on veteran programs. “The realization of a program like this where we are able to assist the veterans who have served this country, as well as their families, and have better access to the benefits they have earned is long overdue,” Self said. “We are also working hand in hand with the VA and CDCR in navigating the logistics of onsite exams that require specific equipment and instruments. These exams and programs are tailored specifically to the incarcerated veterans. In so doing, this enables the returning veteran to become a productive member of society once again, already having these benefits in place upon release.” Those who volunteer for the veterans program must

have served in the United States Armed Forces. All veterans, regardless of their type of discharge, shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in the program pending verification of an embossed DD-214. They must also sustain good behavior while serving their time. Participants will be able to apply for and receive benefits associated with military service, while also working with outside veteran agencies and community entities to address all rehabilitative needs. Veterans currently housed in the facility have already begun to create an environment that nurtures personal growth, positive programming, and rehabilitation. The CTF veteran specific yard will foster an environment for veterans to enhance their well-being, build self-care skills, counteract compassion fatigue and burnout and promote collaboration, success and sustainability.

By **Vincent E. O’Bannon**
Staff Writer

Health not incarceration is just one of the mottos of a group of medical advocates helping returning citizens (formerly incarcerated individuals) with their health care and reentry needs. The Transitions Clinic Network (TCN), a national network of community health centers, operates 44 programs in community health centers in 10 states and Puerto Rico. California has 21 programs in 14 counties, according to the networks website. “Inside, healthcare is institutionalized and many individuals are never given an opportunity to manage their own health condition,” said Joe Calderon, Community Health Worker (CHW) at Southeast Health Center. “You’re told what to do and when. In the community, you have to be in charge of your own healthcare. TCN community health workers are here to help you with that transition.” In the first two weeks of release returning citizens are 12 times more likely to die or to be hospitalized, reported TCN.

Transitions Clinic Network provides continuity of care, training, employment

“These deaths and hospitalizations can be prevented if returning community members get connected to healthcare at a clinic like the ones in our network,” said Calderon. “Many people in state prison have chronic health conditions like hypertension, cancer, substance use disorder, or mental health conditions, which can also be treated at clinics like the ones in our network.” The program at the Southeast Health Center is located in San Francisco, Bay View Hunters Point neighborhood. It serves more than 150 formerly incarcerated patients every year, reported TCN. San Quentin also has a TCN discharge clinic program. The TCN programs meet new patients one-on-one to create a reentry plan, based on the patient’s health and reentry goals.

They assist with medication assisted treatment plans, help patients activate their Medi-Cal insurance and teach patients how to schedule their own appointments and refill their medications. TCN also has a technology coach to teach how to use computers, e-mails and cell phones. “I feel like we are here to attempt to balance a scale,” said David Durant, CHW and Redding SUD Counselor/Case Manager for Hill Country Community Clinic. “There are many obstacles waiting for those who transition home---purposefully crafted restrictions designed to hinder one’s success, while simultaneously drawing attention to the fact one has a prior conviction, i.e., flashing neon sign, ‘CONVICT HERE. BEWARE!!!’ “We are seeking to turn that around and bring balance. We see the formerly incarcerated as sons and daughters of our

community to be welcomed home, embraced, stood beside, encouraged and helped in their journey,” Durant continued. “The flashing neon sign is a signal for us to get in, get involved, and embrace the opportunity.” The TCN clinics also hire and train at least one formerly incarcerated person as a Community Health Worker (CHW) — Durant is one. “We strive to provide meaningful employment for people with histories of incarceration,” said Calderon. “Many of whom have been systematically excluded from jobs in the healthcare field.” Durant added, “There is life after incarceration. I say this as someone who has been home for 6 years after spending 3 decades inside. I lived with the belief that I was not meant to live and die in a cement and steel cage. I began preparing while still inside for that life I wanted outside.”

The network also helps patients sign up for food stamps, find housing, and can advocate on their behalf to resolve problem with their parole or probation officer. “We believe that giving people access to the services they need to remain healthy and well in the community, will keep them out of prison and jail,” said Calderon. Charleszetta Brown co-facilitates a support group called “REMEDY” for formerly incarcerated men and women encouraging checking on their health. She is a Reentry Health Conductor in the African American Health Conductors Program, Contra Costa Health Services in partnership with the Center for Human Development in Pittsburg, CA. “The program is a call to action to all county health care system and social services to address the glaring health disparities and social

inequities facing the returning citizen,” said Brown. “[And] to provide more structure around addiction—it too is a health disparity.” The medical advocates and workers want to provide solutions and hope to those returning home from incarceration. “Hope is the key ingredient to change and hope is the medicine that will allow you to address your own trauma,” said Calderon. “I challenge you to become part of the solution. I look forward to hearing you call our hotline or seeing you in person one day. “Know this; we do this work because we care. We here in the community, we want to help, and we’re excited to welcome you home one day.” Global-TelLink TCN Reentry Hotline: (510) 606-6400 Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm

Gate Money: Is it time for a cost-of-living increase?

By Vincent O'Bannon
Staff Writer

California typically gives newly released prisoners \$200 to help them make a new life, clearly nowhere enough for a realistic new life. The \$200 is the same as it was in 1973, which would equal \$1,200 if inflation were considered.

"I have been incarcerated 14 years. I feel that giving me \$200 after all these years is an insult," said Clenard "Akeem" Wade, San Quentin resident. "If I've given myself over to the idea of rehabilitation, I should be afforded an opportunity to be put in a position to succeed once released; \$200 does not do that at all."

A release allowance (gate money, as it's known in the prison community) is intended to help a former inmate/parolee's reintegration into society, according to Title 15, the state's prison rules and regulations.

In 1973, a loaf of bread cost 27 cents, milk \$1.36, gas 65 cents a gallon, and the median rental price for a two bedroom apartment was around \$800 dollars a month, according to InflationTool.

"There should be serious legislative talks on this issue," said SQ resident Ed "EC" Carlevato. "There should at least be supplemental gate money for those without family or resources. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spends approximately \$102,897 each year, for each of its incarcerated prisoners

"After a bus ticket and a meal, I can't imagine there being enough money for a person ... being able to survive on what's left over," added Carlevato.

Approximately 10,000 ex-offenders are released from federal and state prisons every week, according to the Office of Justice Programs.

"To reintegrate back into society, a person needs a support

system, which a lot of us do not have," said SQ resident Kevin "Legal Man" Shrubbs. "When you don't have that, \$200 becomes an invitation to committing crime, especially for those who aren't prepared for life after prison."

In 2004, former President George W. Bush recognized that there were re-entry problems for parolees.

"This year, some 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into society," said Bush, in his 2004 State of the Union address. "We know from long experience that if they can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit more crimes and return to prison...."

"America is the land of the second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life," Bush added.

CDCR expenditures rose from \$9.7 billion in 2010-11 to

an estimated \$13.3 billion in 2019-20, said a February 2020 report by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

"With the kind of figures that CDCR is working with, why isn't anything being done to provide more assistance to the demographics of people who would benefit from CDCR support?" asked Shrubbs.

The "Returning Home Well" program in California received \$30 million to help parolees with finding housing, jobs, health care, transportation and treatment, reported Don Thompson of the Associated Press in August 2020.

"Programs that assist the formerly incarcerated find success after paroles are being made available for those who seek them out," said SQ resident Albert King.

Providing community services "is a well-researched and proven model for reducing recidivism and helping people achieve success," said Jay Jor-

dan, executive director of Californians for Safety and Justice.

The state, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and nearly 20 philanthropies and nonprofit groups joined together on the project, with California putting up half the funding, reported AP.

The state is "committed to providing essential services to those who are returning home to their families and communities," Gov. Gavin Newsom said.

"What the state is supposedly doing is OK, but they continue to put money into programs and not the pockets of people who have spent decades behind bars, or even short-termers, the guys that spend one to five years in prison," said SQ resident Jemain "Hunn" Hunter.

Reentry consultant Daniel Munczek Edelman had this suggestion: "By addressing head-on the financial troubles of people leaving incarceration, we may be able to accelerate their reintegration and tran-

sition to stable employment, reduce recidivism, and meaningfully improve the United States' criminal justice system." His suggestion was in a 2017 article for the Stanford Social Innovation Review.

"While a man exiting prison today might receive job training and see a clinician for mental health needs, an additional cash transfer could enable him to secure a place to live, a mass transit fare, and groceries for his family. Cash — or a restricted, EBT-styled debit card — would provide for immediate needs and ease the stressful reentry process," said Edelman.

He noted providing 500 individuals with \$500 a month for a year would cost the state of California \$3 million a year, but could reduce criminal activity and could be funded by private foundations.

Journalism Guild Writer David Anthony Prado contributed to this article.

By Vincent E. O'Bannon
Staff Writer

Stimulus checks for incarcerated men and women across the country are experiencing delays from the IRS. The Intercept article also says heavy deductions are levied the incarcerated person in some state correctional systems when they receive their checks.

Last year, incarcerated people won a class action lawsuit filed by Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein to receive a stimulus check out of the 2.2 trillion dollar CARES Act.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act passed by the U.S. Congress that issued a \$1,200 and \$600 stimulus check to qualified Americans.

"Our inference is the IRS just didn't get to the paper claims that were filed certainly after the October 15 postmark, but possibly even to claims that were filed before that date," said Kelly Dermody, a partner at the law

Prisons skim stimulus funds

firm that brought the lawsuit. "We've heard from just tons of people who, you know, are in a state of panic because their cellmate got paid [but] they didn't get paid."

Michael Upton and Ed Mansoll, San Quentin cellmates, are just one of many people who fall in that category.

"I received the \$1200, but the \$600 was sent via debit card, so CDCR sent it back to the IRS," said Upton. "My cellmate however, has not received anything, and we both filed our claims on the very same day."

Mansoll added, "I have refilled. I even sent a separate letter to the IRS explaining to them that I had not received

my stimulus money nor any correspondence informing me why I have not gotten the money, a debit card, or anything else.

"You would think that because you're dealing with government agencies they would at least inform you of something."

The IRS sent \$600 debit cards to prisoners, including those in San Quentin. San Quentin prison officials informed those who received debit cards that they could not process them and were sent back to the IRS.

"I feel CDCR failed to take proper action in accepting debit card payments to prisoners," said Upton. "If the can-teen can debit your account,

there's no reason as to why the accounting office can't credit our accounts with the debit cards."

Mansoll added, "There have been just too many incompetency's from the top down. There's just no rhyme or reason."

The COVID-19 pandemic has shut down most prison industries and programs, just as businesses on the outside leaving some incarcerated people without making any income—even through, most prison wages in California start at 8 cent an hour.

"The money would help greatly," said Terry Mackey, San Quentin resident. "Not having to put a strain on my family. Because they're already financially strained due to the COVID pandemic and they still have bills to pay."

Katrina Brown, incarcerated at the California Institution for Women, told The Intercept, "I have no one supporting me. I would have been able order food so I could feed myself the proper way. I

would use the money for my hygiene and food."

Brown has yet to receive any of the stimulus money as well, reported The Intercept.

Even as Congress included language-protecting prisoners' stimulus checks from federal and state debt collections, California and other state prison systems still took some form of restitution or fees from the checks as much as 25 to 50 percent. California takes 50 percent and tacks on an additional 5 percent for administrative costs.

Only the Texas Department of Criminal Justice reported that it had not garnished any prisoners' money from the CARES Act checks, according to The Intercept.

Illinois Representative Danny K. Davis (D) who sits on House Ways and Means Committee, said "(that is) beyond the pale." If some prison systems are taking away the stimulus check that is meant to benefit the individual, The Intercept states.

Even, the Congressional Black Caucus weighted in when the IRS first made the decision to withhold stimulus checks from incarcerated people saying withholding it "disproportionately discriminates against African Americans," reported The Intercept.

"I don't know what the Department of Corrections or the Department of Justice has to do with prisoners getting their money when it's the IRS's job in getting them to us," said Vincent "Doc" Godfrey, SQ resident. "But now I can say this, as far as the IRS sending out those debit cards and the institution receiving them, they should allow us prisoners to decide what we want them to do with them. Where is our option of sending them home if we want to?"

By Charles Crowe
Staff Writer

The number of people serving life sentences in America today exceeds the total number of people in prison in 1970, reported The Sentencing Project in a study released in February.

The five-fold growth of life sentences since 1984 is even greater than the dramatic increase of the general prison population over the same period.

California led the nation at the time of the study with almost 41,000 people, about one-third of the state's incarcerated population, serving life sentences.

Politics have driven the sentencing trend. Sensationalized stories about crime have fueled fear that has been exploited to exaggerate the actual level of crime in communities, the report stated.

"Life sentences are the lifeblood of mass incarceration," said the report. "...Extreme punishment for punishment's sake is now a hallmark of the justice system with little evidence that such an approach produces better public safety outcomes."

The prevalence of life sentencing is rife with problems, noted the study. For example, dozens of empirical studies indicate that the vast majority of people age out of criminal conduct. Yet 30% of those serving life sentences are 55 or older.

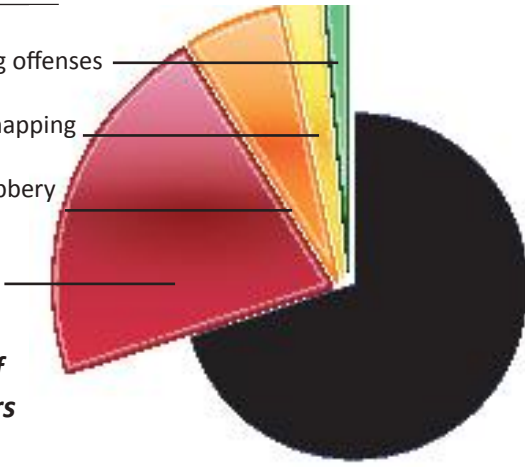
Additionally, racial and ethnic disparities are stark, with

Study reveals trends in life sentences

500% growth of life sentences since 1984, one in five serving time in California

Of the 203,000 men and women serving life sentences in the United States:

4,000 were sentenced for drug offenses
5,000 were sentenced for kidnapping
16,000 were sentenced for robbery
61,000 are elderly or geriatric



Source: The Sentencing Project

Life-without-parole sentences are "virtually unheard of elsewhere in the world... Imprisonment beyond 20 years is a predominantly American phenomenon."

—Ashley Nellis, Study Author

one-fifth of Black prisoners serving life sentences. People of color make up two-thirds of those sentenced to life.

A better use of resources would be to prevent crime at its source by investment in social programs, the report concluded.

"Public investments for supporting youth, ensuring access to medical and mental health care, expanding living wage employment opportunities and ensuring affordable housing are a better use of public resources than lifelong imprisonment."

The report's authors recommend abolition of life without parole (LWOP) and limiting life sentences to 20 years in almost all cases.

"The elimination of LWOP will recalibrate all sentences underneath it," suggests the report. Five and 10-year sentences appear mild in contrast to life, distorting public perceptions of these lesser punishments. "...Creation of a more fair and just system depends on ending all extreme penalties."

Other recommendations include expansion of release opportunities, and an orientation toward victim restoration

and community involvement in sentencing.

"America suffers from a broken parole system," said the report, which cited politicization of the parole process and manipulation of the victim's experience to insure that prisoners are not released. Instead, the focus should be on the rehabilitation of the incarcerated person and the resources necessary to insure success upon release.

The report also promotes an emphasis on restoration of victims. In the present system very few resources are devoted

to the needs of survivors of crime.

"Experts in this space know that we are all safer when we uplift victims, hold everyone accountable...and do so with empathy and compassion; not assume victims or communities are well-served by long-term imprisonment."

Reliance on life sentences is a development of recent decades. Early American justice emphasized rehabilitation and the return of offenders to society, said the report. Today the emphasis is on exclusion of the offender.

Like the death penalty, life sentences are shunned by other industrialized nations. The report cites a case decided by the European Court of Human Rights that substantially eliminated life without parole sentences in member nations.

The decision reflects the principle that prisoners should have the "right to hope," and provides that rehabilitated individuals who have atoned for their crimes must be evaluated for potential release.

The report concludes that "[i]n an evolved criminal legal system, far fewer people would be in prison, and those who were imprisoned would not stay nearly as long as they currently do. When incarceration is required, the experience should be devoted to preparation for release...This is the successful approach used by many other countries."

— A.J. Harding
contributed to the story

Eligibility for resentencing under PC §1170(d)(1) expanded

Bianca Velez
Contributing Writer

Recent legislation allows convicted people to request the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the District Attorney review their cases. The review may result in courts reducing or modifying sentences and, may result in reduced jail or prison time, release from custody, as well as lessen conditions of probation.

Eligible people have a 30% chance of having their sentences reduced or modified. The CDCR reported that in the past couple years it has identified 1,105 eligible cases and referred them to courts. Courts responded in 670 cases and reduced sentences in 336 cases.

Individuals with death sentences are not eligible for consideration under penal code 1170(d)(1). Also, the CDCR generally does not take recommend people with Life Without Parole sentences, 290 sex offense registration requirements, Parole Eligibility Dates or Earliest Parole Release Dates within 18 months, or a SHU (solitary) term within the last five years.

This is the criteria that the CDCR and courts use to determine whether to grant resentencing:

Has the law changed in a way that would have resulted in you receiving a lower punishment if your case was still open at this time?

Examples include proposition 47 which reduced the punishment for certain theft and drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, proposition 36 which reduced the punishment for non-violent and non-serious third strike offenders, proposition 64 which legalized the use of small amounts of marijuana and the sale of the drug by licensed businesses.

Was a sentencing enhancement applied to your sentence that is no longer regularly applied?

Examples include 1-year prior prison term enhancements, five-year prior serious felony enhancements, use enhancements, and repeat drug trafficking enhancements.

Has new information come to light since your conviction that may have caused a sentencing error?

Examples include new case facts, evidence of a clerical error or judicial error during your trial.

If your answer to any of the questions is “yes,” you may be eligible. Consider the following three questions. If any apply to you, the chances of your case being resentenced increase.

Have you exhibited exceptional conduct while at San Quentin?

Favorable behavioral records include multiple of the following: positive programming, enrolling in Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and/or Criminals & Gang Members Anonymous,

facilitation or leadership roles in classes or groups, educational, vocational, or work review training, employment preparation, positive comments from program staff and correctional staff, and if at least 10 years served and at least 50% of sentence served.

Is there evidence that you exhibit a reduced risk for future violence?

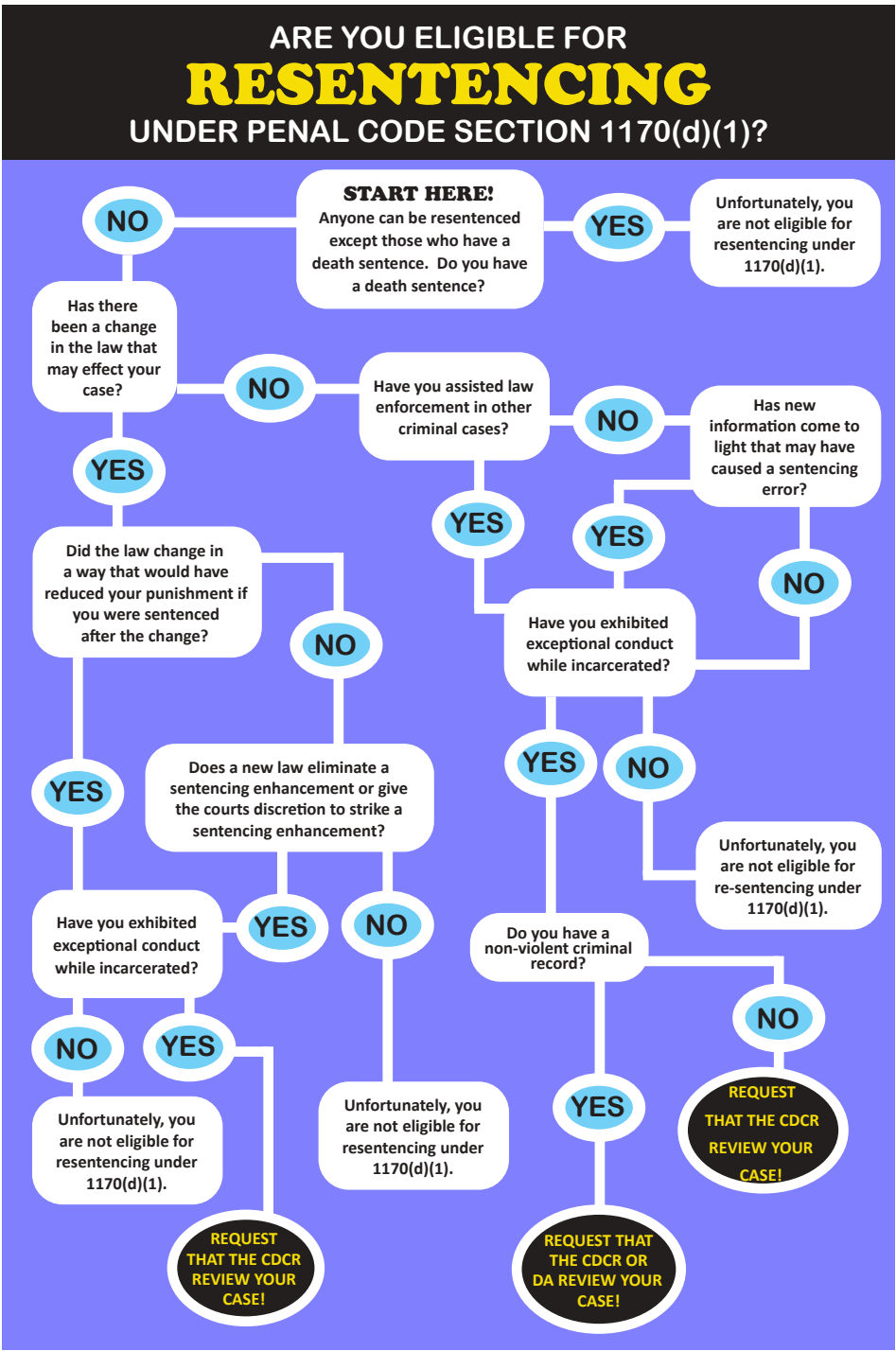
Common evidence includes age, length of time served, and decreases in physical health.

Have you given assistance to law enforcement in other criminal cases?

To request CDCR review, file a CDCR Form 602 administrative appeal to your counselor writing about your situation and asking to be evaluated for a resentencing recommendation.

The District Attorney also has the authority to recommend resentencing, but District Attorney’s offices have not formalized the criteria they plan to use for resentencing referrals. To request District Attorney review, get in contact with the Public Defender’s Office in the county where you were sentenced, so they can contact the District Attorney’s Office for you. You can also try to contact the Sentencing Review Project at 1904 Franklin St., Suite 205, Oakland, CA 94612 or online at www.sentencereview.org.

For general information on eligibility, see the chart at right.



Franklin Hearings allow youth offenders to present mitigating factors for consideration at sentencing

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Youth offenders convicted and given a lengthy prison term by a sentencing court for crimes committed when they were age 26 or under are entitled to have a “Franklin Hearing.” The California Supreme Court made this ruling in 2016.

“By operation of law, Franklin’s sentence is not functionally equivalent to LWOP...” (life without

the possibility of parole) the court ruled in *People v. Franklin*.

The purpose of a Franklin Hearing is to present evidence of mitigating factors into the offender’s record that was not introduced to the trial court at the time of sentencing. The updated record can then be evaluated at a future parole hearing.

In California, when a youth offender is given an indeterminate sentence, such as 50 years or longer to life, they are not eligible

for their first parole hearing until they have served anywhere from 20 to 25 years of continuous time in custody. In some circumstances, a parole hearing is not likely to take place in the prisoner’s lifetime.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Miller v. Alabama* (2012) and *Graham v. Florida* (2010) that lengthy sentences given to youth offenders violates the 8th Amendment. The reasoning held the length of time was cruel and unusual punishment without

an evaluation of a person’s upbringing, juvenile record, maturity, capacity to learn and understand, and the facts of the case.

According to the Franklin decision, a sentence handed to a youth offender that is equivalent to LWOP may run contrary to the rulings in *Miller* and *Graham*.

Those who meet the criteria — but were convicted after the Franklin decision or have already appeared before the parole board — may file a petition for writ of habeas

corpus to their sentencing court to request a Franklin Hearing. When such a hearing is granted, it is recommended that a petitioner ask the judge to appoint an investigator to interview family members, an expert in forensic psychology and perhaps a social worker to write a mitigation report. In this way, the new information is preserved as evidence for future and subsequent parole hearings.

Citing *Miller*, the California Supreme Court concluded in *People v. Franklin* that

“imposition of a state’s most severe penalties on juvenile offenders cannot proceed as though they were not children.” The ruling also reads, in part, that a hearing “must give great weight to youth-related mitigating factors...”

The hearing stems from the conviction of Tyris Lamar Franklin, who was 16 years old when he killed another teenager with a firearm. At trial, a jury found him guilty of first-degree murder. By law, the judge was obligated to impose two 25-year-to-life

By Edwin E. Chavez
Staff Writer

California is set to shut down its remaining three youth facilities by July 2023, the Los Angeles Times reports.

In L.A. County, Safe and Secure Healing Centers facilities will house eligible teenagers that are arrested and convicted. Under the county plan, the small home-like facilities will be partly staffed by the Credible Messengers, a group of formerly incarcerated man and women that have change their lives. The centers will be located near the youth’s neighborhoods. They will consist of both open and locked facilities, noted the Times.

“There are far worse things out there for kids than the current system,” said Frankie Guzman, director of the Youth Justice Initiative at the National Center for Youth Law. “Like trying to survive on a (maximum security) Level 4 prison yard.”

Department of Juvenile Justice shuttered

Guzman served several years in California’s youth facilities. He is worried that judges will send youth offenders to adult prisons if there is not a proper replacement to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) prisons system, according to the article.

The Ventura youth facility and two Stockton institutions are the last youth prisons slated for closure. They will stop intake in July, with some exceptions. The youths will be under the new Department of Youth Development instead of the Probation Department. An allegation of youth mistreatment and state budget concerns has pushed the reform efforts. Some incarcerated youth at the Stockton facility have complained of not having fair access to jobs or recreation time. Also that some correctional officers were favoring gang members over those who wanted to

leave the gangs, said the article.

“That place has got a twisted culture and climate,” said one teacher inside the DJJ to the Times, who wished to remain anonymous. “It’s deep. It’s baked in. So it’s very difficult to change.”

The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, a non-profit group, release a 2019 report that said that the DJJ staff “abet violence, reinforce racial and ethnic conflicts, and legitimize institutional gangs,” reported the article. In December, the group again criticized the DJJ for its alleged mishandling of the coronavirus spread in their facilities, which infected 13% of the department’s 1,400 staff members and 203 young prisoners, said the article.

It costs the state \$268,000 per youth each year compare to the \$102,736 for each adult prisoner per year, according

to Gov. Gavin Newsom budget, reported the article.

“The system has invested in the tools of punishment, like pepper spray, rubber bullets, guns, batons, Tasers, tear gas and other lethal weapons that have no place in a care-first model,” said Kenzo Sohoue, formerly incarcerated at a DJJ facility, to The L.A. Times.

The state has pledged more than \$200 million a year for the “realignment” of the state juvenile justice system to the county authorities. The money would pay to house and care for the youths in county facilities. Teens convicted of more serious crimes such as murder will still be sent to a DJJ institution until officials work out a plan to deal with the situation, said the article.

“The community is concerned that going from DJJ to the local juvenile halls or some of the previously closed probation camps is no real improvement at all,” said Julio Marcial, a member of a state committee overseeing the juvenile justice.

The shifts to local counties also draw some protest from some county officials, saying that the timeline is too short and the financial investment inadequate.

“This is particularly complicated given San Francisco’s current effort to close our existing juvenile hall,” said some probation officials for that county, according to the article.

Secure alternatives, rehabilitation over punishment and confinement and restorative justice has become a major effort by some youth advocates to keep children from being isolated in state facilities, reported the article.

Even newly elected George Gascon, Los Angeles District Attorney, has pledged to stop trying some juveniles as adults.

Also state regulators have banned counties from transferring some difficult youths to out of state facilities.

“There still have to be consequences for continuous negative behavior,” said Larry Morse II, legislative director of the California District Attorney Assn. to the Times, on prosecutors support to improve rehabilitation efforts.

There has been a dramatic drop in youth crimes over the last two decades. And nearly three-quarter of the state’s juvenile hall beds are empty, reported the article.

San Quentin was first to housed juveniles in 1941, with a 14 year old boy before the exists of the DJJ. By 2000, thousands of youth filled at least 11 prisons, according to the article.

A shift to a more therapeutic model is being welcome by some as research has shown that young people have lower impulse control, greater mood swings and suffer long-term damage from prison isolation, said the article.

“It has been a system designed to punish. And it’s a bad place for young people,” said Elizabeth Calvin, senior advocate at Human Rights

JACKSON

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Then they transferred him to Soledad.”

Azadeh Zohrabi, studied Jackson and regarded him as “a writer, political theorist, and Black Guerilla Family leader” (BGF) in a 2012 publication of the Hastings Race & Poverty Law Journal.

In 1960, George Jackson was an unknown 18-year-old to the state prison system. He was arrested in Los Angeles for a gas station robbery of seventy dollars. He pleaded guilty to the charge in exchange for a short sentence in county jail. Instead, the judge sentenced him to one year to life in state prison. The sentence placed his fate in the hands of the Adult Authority—the parole board at the time. Jackson spent the next ten years in Soledad Prison, seven and a half of those years in solitary confinement.

“Jackson first began studying radical political theorists, including Karl Marx and Frantz Fanon, in 1962, under the supervision of another African American prisoner, W.L. Nolen, who ran a reading group for prisoners,” Keramet Reiter wrote in her book *23/7: Pelican Bay Prison and the Rise of Long-Term Solitary Confinement*. “Nolen, Jackson, and other members of the reading group were ultimately affiliated with the BGF, which was founded sometime between 1966 and 1971. According to its followers, the BGF is a revolutionary political organization; according to prison officials, it is a prison gang.”

While in isolation at Soledad prison, Jackson studied law, history, political theory and other subjects—a common practice among Black prisoners of his era.

“I met Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Engels, and Mao when I entered prison, and they redeemed me,” Jackson wrote in his best-selling book, *Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson*. One of his goals was to transform “the black criminal mentality into a black revolutionary mentality,” Jackson wrote.

At the prison in Soledad, Nolen and two other Black prisoners were killed during a riot by correctional officer Opie G. Miller. After a grand jury ruled Nolen’s death justifiable homicide, correctional officer John V. Mills was beaten by prisoners and thrown from the third tier in a cellblock on January 16, 1970. Jackson was housed in that block.

The book *If They Come in the Morning*, edited by Angela Davis, asserts, “Deputy Superintendent William Black stated, ‘We believe that the death of Officer Mills was reprisal for the death of the three Black inmates.’ And, as if to balance some score being kept, prison officials proceeded to find three Black suspects who, they said, had killed Mills.” Jackson and two other Black inmates, John Clutchette and Fleeta Drumgo, were charged with the killing.

This started the case of the Soledad Brothers. Publicity of the case produced a change of venue from Monterey County, California, where Soledad prison was located, to Marin County. The change led to Jackson’s move to San Quen-



tin, where he awaited trial in the prison’s Adjustment Center.

Under the FBI’s Counter-intelligence Program, Jackson caught the attention of federal authorities. Documents released through the Freedom of Information Act reveal FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was in continuous communication with the Bureau’s field office in San Francisco regarding the Soledad Brothers.

Jonathan Jackson

A year before his brother George was killed, 17-year-old Jonathan Jackson was killed when he attempted to free his brother on August 7, 1970. The younger Jackson went to the Marin County courthouse and took hostages. Three prisoners who were in court were said to have later joined in.

His plan was to “negotiate the release of his brother,” according to U.C. Berkeley professor William J. Drummond in his book *Prison Truth* (2020). “Armed with three guns registered in the name of author and former UCLA professor Angela Y. Davis, Jonathan Jackson attempted to flee the courtroom after seizing the judge, an assistant district attorney, and some jurors.”

The Marin County Sheriff gave an order not to fire on the getaway vehicle. However, San Quentin prison guards disregarded the order and fired a barrage of bullets into the van. Four men were killed, including young Jonathan and Superior Court Judge Harold Haley. Prisoners William Christmas and James McClain were also killed. The only prisoner to survive was Ruchell Cinque Magee, who is still in prison.

“Understand that San Quentin has a no hostage policy,” said Loftin.

“To the Man-Child,” George wrote of his brother in Soledad Brother. “Tall, evil, graceful, bright-eyed, black man-child – Jonathan Peter Jackson – who died August 7, 1970, courage in one hand, assault rifle in the other; my

brother, comrade, friend – the true revolutionary, the Black communist guerilla in the highest state of development, he died on the trigger, scourge of the unrighteous, soldier of the people...”

Bobby Jackson

“That was a traumatic time for me,” said Bobby Jackson, 75 (no relation to George). “That changed my whole life; my whole perspective.” The day of what some call the “Courthouse Slave Rebellion,” he’d just gotten off the bus in front of San Quentin, which is where receiving and release was back then. “I was one of the youngest guys here at that time.” He was a 25-year-old Vietnam War veteran who saw combat in Da Nang in 1965 and 1966.

As Bobby Jackson was waiting, he said a prisoner on his way to court in chains turned and looked at him. “We had a connection,” said Jackson. “It was like he was saying to me, ‘This is my last go round,’ like he was saying, ‘I’m doing this for you.’” That prisoner, Jackson said, turned out to be one of the inmates killed at the courthouse. Before that day, he said “I wasn’t really Black conscious. That was a turning point. I became more conscious of who I was. I realized I was part of a group—like I’m part of this.”

Angela Davis’ alleged role in the courthouse incident caused a warrant to be issued for her arrest. She did not surrender, and was later designated as one of the FBI’s “most wanted fugitives,” according to the book *Agents of Repression*, by Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall. One of her distinctions was “head of the Soledad Brothers Defense Committee and an increasingly effective spokesperson for the movement as a whole.” She faced California’s gas chamber when she was arrested, which started another movement. The call around the world was to “Free Angela Davis Now!” She was later acquitted of all charges.

“She’s the one who got in (George Jackson’s) head,” said Loftin, regarding Jackson’s association with Davis.

“In the prison system we were seeing a rise in Black inmates viewing themselves as ‘political prisoners,’ a view fostered and supported by activists in the community,” wrote former San Quentin warden Robert Ayers Jr. in an email for this story. He started his career as a correctional officer with the then California Department of Corrections, on January 24, 1968. Decades later he became San Quentin’s warden.

After the courthouse incident, George Jackson may have predicted his own end. “I have a very nearly closed future,” he wrote in *Blood in My Eye*, published posthumously. “...I can only be executed once.”

“We should never lose sight of who George Jackson was as a man,” said Gerard Trent Jr., 76, whose been incarcerated 51 years. He first arrived at San Quentin in April 1971. “Because, when it’s all said and done, the belief and evidence is conclusive that he fiercely loved his people; and that his people could one day enjoy the freedoms that others notably enjoy. That made George a thorn in the side of many that extended all the way to the office of the U.S. FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover.”

George Jackson’s Murder

Two days before George Jackson’s trial for the killing of Mills at Soledad prison, he was shot and killed by a guard at San Quentin, outside the Adjustment Center, for allegedly using a gun and trying to escape. His murder and the other killings rocked guards and prisoners.

“I had just returned home from (Army Reserve) Annual Training that day and heard the news on TV that afternoon,” Ayers wrote. He went in to work, but the Watch Sergeant wasn’t sure he could pay him. But he insisted on work-

ing. “To this day I still don’t know if I got paid.”

“I was conversing with a small group on the upper yard, under the shed near the North Block chow hall,” Watani Stiner, 73, wrote in an email for this story. He was convicted for conspiracy to commit murder of Black Panthers Alprentice Bunchy Carter and Jonathan Huggins at UCLA in 1969. “We heard two shots followed by a series of whistles,” Stiner wrote. “While standing under the upper yard shed, just outside the north block chow hall, I saw someone running down the ramp near the Adjustment Center. Guards were running all around, down to the lower yard and toward the AC building. Several guards quickly lined the gun rail and aimed their rifles down on us. They were screaming: ‘Bury your faces in the ground or get shot – NOW!’”

“I recall a great deal of distrust between many staff

and Black inmates,” Ayers wrote. “There had been several fatal assaults on staff throughout CDC.”

Prisoners had control of the Adjustment Center when lieutenant Dick Nelson arrived. According to Loftin, “(Nelson) took a weapon onto San Quentin grounds to take back the AC... just to let them know he was there and serious.” Then he fired. The weapon was reportedly a Thompson submachine gun.

Prisoners in the AC yelled, “We have hostages,” Loftin said. But Nelson “let out another burst” from the Tommy gun. “If San Quentin ever had a hero, it was Dick Nelson.”

Stiner wrote that guards later “rounded up every prisoner they classified and thought to be a ‘Black revolutionary.’” He was a member of the US organization, considered by some as a



rival of the Black Panther Party. “We were immediately placed in the ‘hole’”

There was all kinds of confusion, according to Bobby Jackson. “Everybody knew something was going on.” He said a local radio station broadcast news about something happening at San Quentin. The night following Jackson’s murder, everybody was talking about it, “especially the Blacks.”

“The general thought and feelings were George had been executed, and the inmate population began to brace themselves for the retaliation that everyone knew was coming,” said Trent. “Let me be clear, the majority of guards were not taking part in the executing of that violence against some” (prisoners).

According to Zohrabi, “The entire prison was put on lockdown for more than a month after the shooting.” He described how inmates leaked “a letter to the outside signed by twenty-seven Black, Latino, and white inmates who were on the yard during the shooting and claimed that Jackson was in ‘an assassination conspiracy,’ rather than in an escape attempt, as prison authorities claimed.”

“At the time,” Stiner wrote, “I equated Jackson’s struggle, sacrifice and his martyrdom in the same category as Nat Turner.” Their rebellions had a coincidental starting point: August 21, 1971 for Jackson and August 21, 1831, for Turner. “Jackson (in my mind at the time) was a defiant revolutionary killed on the prison plantation. There were chants in the hole: ‘The dragon is free!’ And ‘Funerals on both sides.’”

Ayers worked as part of the rank-and-file. He knew the staff who were killed. “I knew Frank DeLeon well,” he wrote. “We worked to-

gether frequently in Visiting, on the Main Yard, and in housing units. I had limited contact with Paul Krasenes. My memory of him is he was a somewhat gruff ‘old timer.’ I also had limited contact with Jere Graham. My only real recollection of him is his nickname was ‘Barabbas.’”

Ayers wrote that immediately following August 21, several of the prison’s staff resigned but some returned to work after a few days. “Their issue was rage rather than fear.”

“After the incident the convicts were on their best behavior because they knew we were pissed off,” said Loftin. He said guards ruined inmate cells. “Someone could have said good morning, and if it was taken the wrong way—”

Ayers confirmed, writing, “My memories of the week or so immediately following 8/21 are a bit haunting. Staff took out their anger on virtually all inmates.” Retaliatory cell searches were routine. “When inmates questioned why their property was being thrown away they were unceremoniously taken to (the hole).” He wrote about feeling “quite guilty” for how he treated several prisoners. To remedy the role he played in the retribution, Ayers attended their disciplinary hearings “and told the committee that inmate didn’t do anything wrong and shouldn’t suffer any consequences.”

Contentions that Jackson had a gun and a wig smuggled into the prison by his civil attorney, Stephen Bingham, are still debated. Bingham brought legal papers in for Jackson to review and may have been the last civilian to see him alive. He was later blamed for bringing in a 9mm Astra pistol into the prison for Jackson. “No, I didn’t,” Bingham is quoted in an SFGate story from 2001. “It seems to me there were enough guns floating around the Adjust-

ment Center that there was no particular need for one more.”

“I don’t believe that (George Jackson) had a gun concealed in his hair,” said Trent. “Also, I have never met anyone that even thought it was possible for him to do so.”

Bingham fled the United States, after a grand jury indicted him on two counts of murder and one charge of conspiracy. He lived in Europe for more than a decade before returning to the United States to stand trial.

“I was acquitted in 1986,” Bingham wrote in a recent email for this story, adding it is “an acquittal which San

the positive changes which have followed.”

“Faced with severe challenges after the killing of George on August 21, 1971, and the killings soon after at Attica, the prisoner rights movement has since come back stronger than ever, as evidenced by: the strength of Critical Resistance; the 2013 hunger strike at Pelican Bay which led to a lawsuit resulting in severe restrictions on CDCR’s power to arbitrarily put people in solitary confinement; numerous judicial decisions finding prison conditions unconstitutional; the erosion of support for

CDCR’s leading prison for inmate rehabilitation. Today it promotes dozens of self-help groups and programs, educational and college courses, vocational training, and more.

“To the Man-Child,” George wrote of his brother in Soledad Brother. “Tall, evil, graceful, bright-eyed, black man-child – Jonathan Peter Jackson – who died August 7, 1970, courage in one hand, assault rifle in the other; my brother, comrade, friend – the true revolutionary, the Black communist guerilla in the highest state of development, he died on the trigger, scourge of the unrighteous, soldier of the people...”

Quentin officials astonishingly continue to refuse to recognize in their official SQ publications.”

“I, once again, was under the impression that the justice system failed,” said Loftin about the verdict in Bingham’s trial.

Jackson’s Legacy

Official accounts of how Jackson died continue to contravene other stories. Bingham, however, views the final outcome of Jackson’s story, writing:

“George Jackson, perhaps even more in his death than when he was alive, was a critical spark in the struggle for the Nation’s conscience that led to shining a spotlight on the enormous defects with our criminal justice system and

the death penalty, as states continue to abolish it; the strengthening of the restorative justice movement; and the remarkable election of progressive prosecutors.”

“The late 60’s and early 70’s was a volatile period,” wrote Ayers. Citing the Vietnam War, racial consciousness and tension, and political turmoil, “it was like present day USA,” without the war.

In the garden chapel area of San Quentin, next to the Adjustment Center, the American flag flies at a constant half-staff, near the memorial to ten fallen officers—three of whom fell on that notorious day some prisoners call “Black August.”

Fifty years after its bloodiest day, San Quentin is the



Right: Prison guard Mike Loftin, 24 years old in 1971, was waiting for his best friend, Sgt. Jere Graham (left-center), to join him at a bar when he learned of Graham’s death. Two other guards, Frank DeLeon (top) and Paul Krasenes (bottom) died in the violence that would be called the bloodiest day in San Quentin history.

Por Daniel Lopez
Escritor Contribuyente

La población mundial experimentó el (Lockdown) encierro forzado de emergencia debido al COVID-19. Varios países cerraban sus fronteras. Hubo la imposición de confinamiento en gran parte del mundo. En la Prisión de San Quentin, (Lockdown) es cuando encierran a los presos en sus celdas bajo llave.

Para un preso es normal amanecer con el programa cerrado: “no hay escuela, no hay yarda, no hay trabajo,” anuncian los guardias. Algunas veces te dicen que es porque se perdió un metal y revisaran todas las celdas; otras veces sucede cuándo se pelean los reos, y los encierran por seguridad.

Este encierro forzado de emergencia fue diferente porque los presos se contagiaban uno a otro de coronavirus. A los primeros infectados los empezaron a apartar para ponerlos en cuarentena.

Roberto Almazán de 63 años fue de los primeros prisioneros que dieron positivo al COVID-19. “El guardia llegó a la puerta de mi celda ‘empaca tu propiedad que te tienes que mover’ “dijo Roberto. “Me movieron a Badger en la noche. Tenía escalofríos y unas punzadas en la cabeza bien gachas.”

Cuando un prisionero necesita atención médica, grita “hombre caído” y el número de celda, y los otros prisioneros repiten para que escuchen los guardias.

Coronavirus y norovirus en San Quentin

“Al escuchar (man down) hombre caído, pensé que el siguiente sería yo,” dijo Roberto. “El siguiente día, llegó la enfermera a revisarme, me miró tirado en la cama, corrió con el guardia para que abriera la puerta. Me sacaron en silla de ruedas, y ya empezaba con dificultades, para respirar. ”.

“Me cambiaron de ropa. Una ambulancia me sacó al hospital fuera de la prisión. ” “Me pusieron suero y me entubaron. Pensaba que moriría. Sentía náuseas y dolores de cabeza. ”

“Me encontraba esposado. En la cama me dieron un bote para orinar. Cuando me levantaba a orinar, me faltaba el aire. Había veces que se me iba la honda, solo miraba que entraban y salían los doctores. Estaba resignado a morir para que seguir sufriendo,” contó Roberto.

“A los tres o cuatro días, me quitaron el oxígeno, les pregunte que porqué pues batallaba para respirar. Me dijeron que era necesario para que mis pulmones volvieran a la normalidad. La comida de los enfermos está muy buena: caldo de pollo o caldo de res con vegetales.”.

“A los cinco días me dieron de alta, y me sentí mal sin ganas de regresar a la prisión solo de pensar en la celda. Las paredes las rejas y los barrotes despintados, el metal de las camas oxidado, el retrete goteando, agua que tenía que limpiar a cada rato.”.

“Me negaba a volver a la realidad, pero no tenía otra alter-

nativa. A adonde me manden tengo que ir. Regresando a la prisión, me pusieron en la misma celda. Dentro de la celda apostaba como a rata muerta. Por el pasillo pasaban los ratones corriendo”. Me preguntaba cómo te dicen que desinfectes todo lo que toques y te laves las manos y te encierran en una celda insalubre. Me sentía como abandonado. ¿La celda sin electricidad, cómo prender el abanico para refrescarte, y cómo encender la televisión para entretenerte, cómo disfrutar un café caliente o coser una sopa sin electricidad?”

“Solo viendo las paredes rayadas, cada nombre, cada apodo. Encerrado día y noche por 40 días. Para mí fue más duro que el coronavirus. Por fin decidieron regresar a los reos a sus edificios en cuarentena. Regrese al norte, la celda pintada, el edificio también. La pintura influye en el estado de ánimo. Regresé con mi trabajo en la cocina. El oficial de la cocina se enfermó de coronavirus y a todos los trabajadores de la cocina los pusieron en cuarentena. El guardia llega a mi puerta y ‘empaca tu propiedad porque te tienes que mover al gimnasio.’ Otra vez a moverme, y si te niegas obtendrás un reporte de violación de reglas por desobedecer una orden. El gimnasio tenía camillas muy cómodas, estaba un poco mejor. A la semana me movieron a las carpas de la yarda. Las carpas en la yarda eran como



Phoeun You, SQNews

Durante la pandemia Roberto se enfermo del coronavirus. Sufreó bastante y fue movido varias veces durante la cuarentena.

California Prohíbe Prisiones Privadas y Centros de Detención para Inmigrantes

Por Carlos Drouaillet
Escritor Asociado

La batalla por prohibir cárceles privadas en California se inició desde el 2019 cuando los legisladores de California votaron para hacer efectiva la ley AB 32 (Assembly Bill 32). Por ser considerada única en su clase y por ser beneficiosa para inmigrantes ha causado múltiples demandas desde antes que entrara en vigor.

Una de las corporaciones que demandó a la AB 32 semanas antes que fuera aprobada fue el Grupo GEO cuyo vocero llamo la ley, “claro intento del estado para anular los esfuerzos de detención del gobierno federal dentro de las fronteras de California.”

Semanas antes de entrar en efecto la AB 32 grupo GEO, CoreCivic y Management and Training Corp.- firmaron contratos por \$6.5 billones y con duración de 15 años más dos extensiones de 5 años, terminando en 2034.

Preocupada por la apresurada obtención de los contratos, la entonces Senadora de Estados Unidos Kamala Harris se unió a legisladores y escribieron al Departamento de la Defensa Nacional (DHS por sus siglas en español) y a los oficiales ICE. “Es un aparente atentado para debilitar el espíritu de la nueva ley antes de fecha efectiva de Enero 1, 2020.” Dijo Harris. Reporto Los Angeles Times

También la administración de Trump demandó en contra de la ley que prohíbe nuevos contratos por lucro y termina los existentes por completo para 2028.

Mientras a favor, un juez del Distrito de San Diego expresó California protege el bienestar y salud de detenidos federales en su territorio y en desacuerdo GEO apeló esa decisión. Juntamente, abogados de la administración de Biden presionaron a los jueces del Noveno Circuito de la

Corte de Apelaciones a revocar la ley.

Más por causa del virus COVID-19 y la orden de jueces federales por liberar detenidos y parar transferencias, algunas cárceles están casi vacías. Por ejemplo en Mesa Verde en Bakersfield quedaron solo 30 detenidos, cuando la capacidad es 400. También en Adelanto, cerca de San Bernardino con capacidad de 2,000 reos, solo quedaron 130.

Procurando llenar las instalaciones, el abogado de GEO notificó la corte en Junio 3, que por la vacunación en Adelanto ya era seguro retornar a capacidad como antes de la pandemia. “Como GEO es compensado por el uso y la operación de las instalaciones de Adelanto, las restricciones de capacidad en Adelanto afectan directamente los intereses económicos de GEO,” escribió Raymond Cardozo, abogado del Grupo GEO.

También, el vocero de la compañía, Pablo Páez aseguró que el Grupo GEO no interviene en las decisiones de ICE. “Nosotros rechazamos fuertemente la caracterización que GEO está buscando repoblar cualquiera de los centros de procesamiento de ICE que operamos en nombre del gobierno federal,” dijo Páez. “Nuestros documentos archivados en la corte exclusivamente buscan que las restricciones operacionales en relación con COVID, iguallen y reflejen los datos más recientes de la vacunación contra COVID y el número de casos y las medidas de mitigación implementadas en nuestras instalaciones.”

El Grupo GEO administra 5 centros de detención de inmigración, de 7 que son obligados a cerrar en California.

La batalla por la AB 32 es continua. El Grupo GEO asegura que por causa de la AB 32 perdería de \$ 250 millones al año en ingresos por los próximos 15 años, además de

los \$ 300 millones invertidos and adquirir y acondicionar los edificios.

Además, ICE solo operaría y podría detener individuos en Yuma, con capacidad de 220 insistiendo que tendrían que mover detenidos fuera de California afectando a familiares, abogados más los que apoyan la ley dicen que ICE debería utilizar monitores electrónicos.

“La indiferencia de la administración de Biden por el asunto de detención de emigrantes, se personificó por su decisión de aliarse con compañías que administran prisiones privadas en la contienda de la AB 32, sobreponiendo ganancias sobre vidas humanas,” dijo Hamid Yazdan-Panah, director de apoyo de Immigrant Defense Advocates. Reporto Los Angeles Times

El abogado Mark Stern, del Departamento de Justicia de EE.UU. llamó la ley insolente y dijo “No hemos tenido ningún caso que haya mantenido una restricción que sea remotamente como esta,” prohibir prisiones privadas impide al gobierno federal “hacer lo que es necesario para ejecutar sus obligaciones” dijo Stern.

Más los partidarios de AB 32 alegan que la ley federal no autoriza a ICE a contratar compañías privadas, añadiendo que el Congreso nunca autorizó contratos a compañías privadas para operaciones de detención. “Esta falta de autorización ha estado oculta a simple vista por años, pero las demandas sobre AB 32 ha traído el asunto a la superficie,” dijo Jordan Wells, abogado de la Unión de Libertades Civiles Americanas (American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California).

Wells también asegura que el Acta de Inmigración y Nacionalidad autoriza a ICE a contratar operaciones de detención con gobiernos estatales y locales incluyendo

“entidades privadas.” Desmintiendo el argumento Stern dice que si hubiera habido alguna duda, el Congreso nunca lo hubiera financiado.

Hay leyes como la AB 32 en otros estados como en Illinois que detuvo la construcción de un centro de detención para emigrantes con capacidad de 1,300 en el 2019. Igualmente, en Abril, el gobernador de Washington forzó la clausura de un centro de inmigración con fines de lucro con 1,575 camas, más el Grupo GEO demandó al estado.

Es un hecho que la AB 32 no extirpa las prisiones privadas de California, pues como ejemplo esta la Correccional en California City en el Condado de Kern. Esas instalaciones, con 2,300 camas, son propiedad de CoreCivic y no fueron afectadas, precisamente porque el estado administra la prisión.

Apoyando la ley Gabrielle Boutin, Abogada General Suplente de California, dice la ley es para proteger Californianos “Estas cárceles crean amenazas a la salud y el bienestar de los detenidos,” dijo ella. “Hay un registro bien-documentado de eso.”

La Jueza Bridget S. Bade, nombrada por Trump, apoyó la ley. Y aunque Boutin declaró diferencias en el significado legal de los crímenes y las estadísticas de salud y violaciones de seguridad, la jueza aparentó no conmovirse con la explicación de Boutin. Reportó Andrea Castillo para Los Angeles Times

Debido a pérdidas financieras, Grupo GEO fue demandado por sus propios inversionistas debido a las deficiencias administrativas. Acción que ocasionó riesgos de salud serios, en referencia a COVID-19, a residentes, además de dañar la reputación y estabilidad financiera de la compañía al dar reportes públicos engañosos.

Fiscales demandan para que prisioneros no puedan ser liberados temprano

Por: Victor Tapia
Escritor contribuyente

La mayoría de fiscales en California, cuarenta y cuatro de los 58 demandan al estado sobre las reglas de buena conducta en las prisiones que pudiera liberar a miles de prisioneros, según el periódico Associated Press.

La Secretaria de correcciones Kathleen Allison uso la declaración de emergencia para expandir las reglas que dan créditos de buena conducta. Las reglas nuevas darían la oportunidad a 76,000 prisioneros de acumular créditos para reducir sus sentencias, reporto Don Thompson.

La demanda alega que el uso de la declaración de emergencia evita el proceso público de comentarios y regulaciones que usualmente se usa. La demanda pide a un juez de la corte Superior del condado de Sacramento que excluya las regulaciones e impida al departamento de corrección conceder cualquier crédito de buena conducta hasta que haya pasado por el proceso regular, reporto el artículo.

Aunque la ley tomo efecto Mayo 1, 2021 los prisioneros tardarían meses o años para actualmente acumular suficientes créditos para poder reducir sus sentencias. La demanda contiene que “No hay una emergencia actual, y no pueden satisfacer los requisitos de emergencia”, según el artículo.

Las reglas afectan a 63,000 mil presos convictos por crímenes violentos, permitiéndoles prospectivamente a servir dos tercios de sus sentencias en vez de 80%. Y a 10,000 prisioneros convictos de crímenes de un segundo crimen serio, pero no violento y a casi 2,900 con su tercer crimen no violento ‘third strikers’ (convicto de tercer

crimen que reciben sentencia de cadena perpetua) que serán elegibles para ser liberados después de servir dos tercios de sus sentencias en vez de 80%, según el artículo. Prisioneros de mínima seguridad en campos de trabajo y prisioneros que trabajan de bomberos serán elegibles bajo las nuevas reglas de obtener un mes antes de su libertad por cada mes que estén en el campo de trabajo.

Los fiscales alegan en su demanda que la única emergencia fue el deseo del departamento de correcciones de seguir “(La) dirección del resumen de presupuestos del gobernador” del año anterior. “En ninguna parte de los documentos de apoyo, da una explicación que indique como el presupuesto de año pasado se convirtió en necesidad operacional para adoptar regulaciones en base de emergencia”, según la demanda.

El fiscal de Los Angeles George Gascon y el fiscal de San Francisco Chesa Boudin, no fueron parte de la demanda. Al contrario ellos creen y apoyan los cambios en las sentencias criminales.

El Depto. de Correcciones dijo que, “archivo regulaciones para promover cambios en crédito de buen comportamiento, y siguió cada procedimiento y pólizas de la oficina de leyes administrativa”. Además que tenía la autoridad bajo la proposición 57 que los votantes aprobaron en el 2016, permitiendo a los prisioneros libertad condicional antes de tiempo, según el artículo.

En un comunicado el departamento de correcciones prometió que “continuar trabajando con sus socios a promover rehabilitación y contabilidad en una manera consistente con la seguridad pública”, según el Associated Press.

By **Jad Salem**
Journalism Guild writer

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has pardoned two youth offenders from Laos who became firefighters. Bounchan Keola, 39, and Kao Saelee, 41, were transported to U.S. immigration authorities last year after serving decades in prison, where they battled wildfires as incarcerated firefighters, according to The Guardian.

Keola and Saelee told their story to the Guardian from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) jail last fall, which led to national outrage about their potential deportation. Both the Keola and Saelee families faced persecution after the Vietnam war and fled to the U.S. as refugees, approximately 40 years ago.

“I could never have imagined this would happen,” Saelee told the Guardian by phone after he heard he had been pardoned. Saelee’s family arrived in the United States from Laos when he was just 2 years old, and he spent 22 years in prison for a robbery when he was a teenager. He was released from ICE jail

Governor Newsom pardons two immigrant firefighters facing deportation



Phoeun You, *SQNews*

“I’m here to serve, not for myself, but for you.”
—Chaplain Yat Ang

and came home to his family in Fresno, Calif. area. At the age of 16, Keola was prosecuted as an adult and accepted a plea deal to second-degree murder. He then served more than two decades in prison, the Guardian reported. Toward the end of Keola’s sentence, he was on the front-

lines of a massive wildfire as part of an inmate firefighting program, where he was hit by a fallen tree and suffered a near-fatal injury.

Keola was recovering from his injuries in an ICE jail, where he had been transferred by the prison after serving his sentence, when Gov. Newsom phoned him to deliver the good news. “I thought somebody was trying to prank me, but [the governor] said, ‘Thank you for your services as a firefighter and keep up the good work.’” Keola told the Guardian.

Newsom’s May 28 pardons mean that both men can return to being legal permanent residents and can eventually apply for citizenship, said Anoop Prasad, a staff attorney with the Asian Law Caucus, who has represented both men.

“This is all I wanted — a second chance to live this American life. We came to this country to have a better

life,” Keola told the Guardian. Keola is hopeful he now can serve as a licensed firefighter.

“It’s a huge relief, and I’m incredibly happy for Kao and Boun and their families who for the past year have been constantly worried that they would be permanently separated,” Prasad said. “I’m glad Gov. Newsom was able to see that they are more than their convictions from when they were teenagers, and I hope he sees the same is true for so many people inside prison.”

After Saelee and Keola told their stories, lawmakers across California asked Newsom to pardon them and advocated for legislation to end transfers from prisons to ICE jail, which would protect people from deportation.

Advocates call the transfers a double punishment, a policy that continues under President Biden, according to the Guardian.

By **Kevin D. Sawyer**
Associate Editor

Governors can increase the use of their executive authority clemency as a corrective tool in order to reduce mass incarceration in the United States, an Urban Institute report suggest.

New legislative reforms passed to reduce the number of people incarcerated in the country do not have language to allow the application of such laws to be applied retroactively, the report explained. A governor’s ability to adjust a sentence or release people from prison can serve as a remedy toward decarceration.

“Executive clemency refers to the authority held by the president and most governors to modify the terms of someone’s criminal justice system involvement, including through pardons or sentence commutation,” Urban Insti-

Governors urged to make greater use of clemency

tute reported. “Governors can extend categorical clemency eligibility to groups of people based on their offenses, sometimes in conjunction with larger reform efforts.”

The report cites, for example, Oklahoma’s drug and property offense reforms passed in 2016 by a voter margin of 16%. In 2019, Illinois’s governor pardoned 11,017 marijuana convictions determined to be a low-level offense. The following day the state legalized marijuana.

“In October 2020, Colorado governor Jared Polis issued an executive order that pardoned more than 2,700 convictions of possession of an ounce or less of marijuana that were issued before the state legalized personal marijuana use in 2012,” the Urban Institute found.

According to the report, several states have also abolished or changed their felony murder laws, citing concerns over their disproportionate and unfair use. Other states are reportedly considering these same reforms.

As a form of targeted relief, California’s legislature passed Assembly Bill 1437, which changed the state’s felony murder law in 2018. Then-Gov. Brown signed the bill into law and it became effective in 2019.

“Another category of people who have received targeted consideration for clemency comprises people convicted as youth,” the Urban report stated. “In 2007, Colorado gover-

nor Bill Ritter established the Juvenile Clemency Advisory Board to review clemency requests from people tried and sentenced as adults when they were minors.”

The Urban study found that one in five people incarcerated in New York are serving a “virtual life sentence,” defined as time a person is not likely to complete based on their life expectancy. Because of that some supporters have called for clemency to be applied to the elderly.

In 2017, California passed Assembly Bill 1448, the Elderly Parole Program, which created state Penal Code section 3055. This allowed prisoners 60 years of age or older, who’d served 25 years or longer on their current sentence

to appear before the parole board. In 2020, the statute was modified under AB 3234 which lowered the requirement to 50 years old or older and 20 years or longer time served.

“Governors have granted clemency to people with death sentences for reasons ranging from moral opposition to proven errors and racial disparities in the death penalty’s application, commuting death sentences to other types of sentences,” Urban reported.

The Urban report stated executive clemency is a tool governors may use to extend mercy and spread the practice of compassionate release to improve reforms being made in the criminal justice system. “Targeted relief,” the report said, can be directed retroactively to people sentenced prior to reforms. In doing so, such relief supports reentry and reduces the collateral consequences of incarceration

by calming difficult access to housing, and reduces barriers to achieving education and employment for formerly incarcerated people returning to society.

Common corrective tools available to governors are amnesty, which can be used before a prosecution. Commutations can reduce a sentence. Pardons can forgive those convicted of crime or who have been exonerated because they are innocent. Remission can reduce or remove fines or restitution. Reprieves or respites can postpone a sentence temporarily.

“The historical record demonstrates that governors have used clemency to address various systemic policy issues, and recent examples show how they can extend clemency eligibility categorically to groups of people,” the report concluded.

By **Ximena Conde**
WHYY News Daily

Prisoners protesting what they call “solitary confinement” by another name at SCI Phoenix ended a hunger strike July 2, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

It’s unclear just how many prisoners took part in the action which started on June 23 – the DOC says only 12 inmates participated, while members of the Human Rights Coalition say it was closer to 40.

At the heart of the strike is what’s called an Intensive Management Unit, a program that was supposed to give people in restricted housing – units meant to segregate people who could cause harm to themselves or others in the prison – a pathway to return with the rest of the prisoners.

The problem, according to people in the IMU who took part in the strike, is SCI Phoenix never laid out how the IMU would work or how they could return to the general prison population.

“They’re in a cell the size of your bathroom and there’s no rules, no regulations in place for this IMU program,” said Patricia Vickers is with the Human Rights Coalition, one of the organizations supporting the prisoners on strike. “No rules to say how often you can get out, no rules to say how many phone

calls you get, no rules to say how often you get a shower.”

After 90 days in the IMU without that information or knowledge of when those details would be released, prisoners made the decision to stop eating.

It’s not the first time the commonwealth has tried to improve segregated housing. In 2015, the DOC asked the Vera Institute of Justice to write out a series of recommendations it could follow to cut violence and the use of restricted housing.

Still, prisoners like Dwayne Staats say they’re living in solitary confinement, which is contributing to mental health issues among this subset of the prison population.

“Dozens sent to suicide watch for verbally expressing thoughts of killing themselves,” wrote Staats.

Prisoners who took part in the strike said they’d been living in isolation for at least four years, some for more than a decade.

Prisoners have communicated with supporters like Vickers through email and phone calls. All they want, said Vickers, is access to prison programming and to know what conditions they need to meet in order to return to the general population.

*Prisoners
who took part
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least four years,
some for more
than a decade.*

“I have been denied any and all forms of educational, vocational, psychological, behavioral and recreational programming with penological justification,” wrote striker Michael Rivera.

“There isn’t even a policy that outlines what this program is or the purpose of this program,” said prisoner Johnny Bramble, adding he felt he was in a program that didn’t exist.



Human Rights Coalition members and other activists rally outside SCI Phoenix to protest the facility’s conditions of confinement.

Phoeun You, *SQNews*

“I’m here to serve, not for myself, but for you.”
—Chaplain Yat Ang

Spokesperson Maria Bivens said the DOC does not have a “solitary confinement” unit and some of the IMU residents share a cell.

Bivens added that while the details of the IMU are being finalized, those in the IMU are being treated as if they were still

in the program they were previously assigned.

According to the Pennsylvania Capital-Star, some of the prisoners on strike last week were transferred from Delaware in 2017, following a melee at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center where a corrections officer was ultimately killed.

Bivens said these men represent the highest security and behavior risk. She said policies for the Intensive Management Unit are being finalized and will be shared with prisoners when complete.

Historical Snippets

This month in history:

1853

California State Prison - San Quentin officially opens for business. The prison began its life as a converted slave ship that roamed the San Francisco Bay with prisoners chained below decks, docking periodically for supplies and to accept new prisoners.

1892

Preston School of Industry became the nation's first youth reformatory, the flagship institution of what would eventually become the California Youth Authority. Upon release, graduates of PSI were issued one rifle with ammunition, one horse, two suits, and twenty dollars.

1906

Successful commercial oil wells were first manufactured after petroleum was discovered in the state of Pennsylvania in 1859.

1924

Tiffany's Breakfast author Truman Capote died in Johnny Carson's home in 1984.

1958

Our world mourned when Princess Diana left the Ritz Carlton in Paris and died in a car accident in 1997

1999

Rendering mass destruction as a ploy in military strategy, the United States detonated the world's first two atomic weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending World War II in 1945.

2001

Young prostitute Mary Ann Nichols was found dead in August of 1888. She is known as "Jack the Ripper's" 1st victim

2019

The world got its first whiff of the Coronavirus that would come to shut down most of the nation's prisons, causing tens of thousands of infections throughout California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Do you have a photo you'd like to see in the *SQNews* for a special occasion, a shout-out, or just because? Send a copy of the picture with a caption or a brief message to us at:

San Quentin News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94964

Please note: Photos cannot be returned, so only send a copy, not the original.

CROSSWORD

Puzzle Theme: "Idioms"

Across

1. Bash

5. Chip maker

8. Gray wolf

12. Pointed part

13. "So long"

15. Mediterranean seaport

16. Stake

17. European shrub

18. Russo of *In the Line of Fire*

19. Pour

22. TV movie channel

23. It gets mined

24. Lindsay of *Mean Girls*

26. Infrequent

28. Health resort

31. 1800s Czech writer Jaroslav

32. Gothic, Roman, or English

33. Priest's offering

34. Hint to the future

37. ____ ball

38. Actresses de Armas and Gasteyer

39. *My Cousin _____*

40. SQ's Lt. S. Robinson's title (Abbr.)

41. Freeway from LA to Florida

42. ____ Cruz

43. Address abbr.

44. Performed

45. Use of anyone or anything when in a bad situation

53. Child's cry

54. Label

55. Hawaiian island

56. Put out

57. Siuan language

58. To ____ it may concern

59. Dried up

60. Cable network

61. Loch ____

Down

1. Perform outstandingly

2. Singer Turner

3. Against

4. _____, done that

5. Tunes

6. Archaeological table

7. Santa's direction

8. Australian singer

9. Nabisco cookie

10. Report

11. Strip club floor covering

13. Over

14. Colorful candy

20. R&B singer Khan

21. Rap doctor

24. 1800s English socialist leader Harold Joseph

25. Prefix related to with bones

26. Actress Saoirse

27. Picnic crashers

28. Precedes Charles, Cloud or Denis

29. Auricle

30. TV host Cohen

31. Door or window accessory

32. Alright

33. Mid-2000s ABC show

35. Kind of hunting animal

36. Actor Chris

41. Hollywood judge

42. River in east central Germany

43. Flood

44. Hitch

45. Type of test

46. Term

47. Norse gods who created the world

48. *Guarding _____*

49. Yes _____!

50. Missouri River dam

51. 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

52. ____ the word

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13	14				15		
16					17					18		
19					20				21			
				22					23			
	24	25				26	27			28	29	30
31					32				33			
34					35				36			
37					38				39			
40				41				42				
				43				44				
45	46	47				48	49			50	51	52
53					54					55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

By Jonathan Chiu // Edited by Jan Perry

(Last month's solution)

H	O	L	D		I	S	S	A		A	D	H	D	
O	V	E	R		I	D	E	A	L		G	E	A	R
L	E	D	A		R	E	A	L	M		I	S	L	E
A	N	E	W	L	E	A	S	E	O	N	L	I	F	E
			B	A	L	S			S	O	E			
	S	A	L	S	A		A	N	T	S		S	N	O
P	E	S	O		N	A	T	O		E	S	T	E	R
S	E	C	O	N	D	C	H	I	L	D	H	O	O	D
P	R	A	D	A		M	O	R	O		O	W	N	S
S	S	P		S	E	E	S		N	E	U	S	S	
			A	T	L				G	O	L			
W	A	S	H	Y	O	U	R	H	A	N	D	S	O	F
A	L	O	E		P	R	I	O	N		E	A	R	L
A	L	D	A		E	D	G	E	S		R	I	C	O
L	O	A	D		D	U	A	D			S	L	A	G

August Sudoku

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

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

(Last month's solutions)

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

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

ARITHMETIC:

Find the missing numbers so that the mathematical statement in each row and column is true.

	+	26	x		=	58
+		/		x		
17	+		-	5	=	25
+		+		-		
	x	2	+		=	52
=		=		=		
42		4		2		

BRAIN TEASERS

COMPLETE THE SQUARE:

The balls above are spaced equally to make a square figure. As you can see, some balls are missing. How many?

WORD PROBLEM:

Assume you have three and seven-ninths haystacks in one part of a field and two and two-thirds haystacks in another part. In another field you have three and five-sixths haystacks. How many haystacks will you have if you put all the haystacks together?

Answers to July's Brainteasers

Coin-Bucket Challenge: Place 7 coins in the first bucket; place 3 coins in the second bucket; place the second bucket in the third.

Math Stumper: 5 + 5/5 = 6 (Remember: 5/5 = 1)

NEWS BRIEF

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

The Corrections by Jonathan Franzen (2001) opens with a storyline that sounds a little too hard and edgy. However, as the characters come to life, its detailed descriptions guides readers into a believable world. Incarcerated readers might find a break from the pains of prison can be quite a relief through the complexities that Franzen creates on the page.

Franzen uses clear, yet witty descriptions that sometimes distract readers from the story’s plot. When a rain slick street is being described [The only colors on the road this morning were the smeared reds of brake lights] the protagonist struggles with life issues. Nevertheless, rain/ wetness is used descriptively in another sentence several paragraphs later: It was raining so hard in Manhattan that water was streaming down façades and frothing at the mouths of sewers. All the while, scene-building makes readers feel comfortably set

The Corrections by Jonathan Franzen (2001)

in a story’s narrative that is an emotional rollercoaster.

Rain appears several pages later:

Big raindrops beating on the sidewalk raised a fresh, could mist of pure humidity. Through the bead-curtain of water coming off the marquee, Chip saw Julia’s cab brake for a yellow light.

From cover to cover, readers are in a world that’s not real, yet believed.

The writing is filled with sentences that progress the story forward. For example, the dialogue between Chip’s and Enid’s sets a scene as well as moves the story forward:

In the tone of a person being friendly to large animals, she said ‘Hi’ to Alfred and ‘Hi,’ separately, to Enid. Alfred and Enid bayed their names at her and extended hands to shake, driving her back into the apartment, where Enid began to pepper her with questions in which Chip, as he followed whit the luggage, could hear subtexts and agendas.

Franzen’s ability to character build is tight. Here’s an example of how he describes Gary, Chip’s brother’s wife:

Caroline’s only sibling, a brother named Phillip, was a patronizing, pocket-protected bachelor and solid-state physicist on whom her mother doted somewhat creepily. He does it again, the tight building for a minor character: The visionary was Earl “Curly” Eberle, a small-mouthed fifty-year-old in dime-store glasses, whom the creators of the Axon Corporation’s promotional video had done their best to make glamorous.

There some humor to incarcerated readers at how Franzen describes the wonder drug, “Corecktall.”

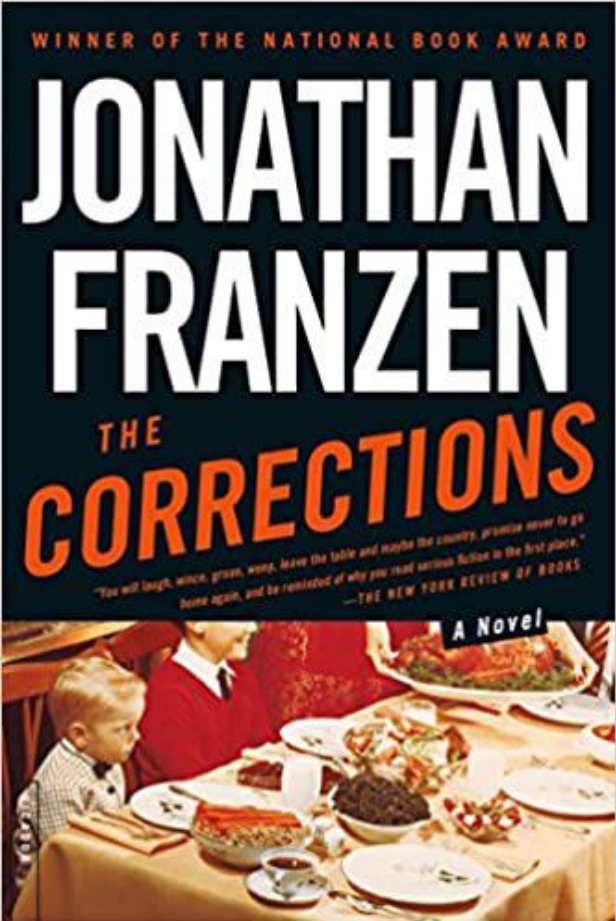
On the other hand, when it comes to social disease, the brain of the criminal, there’s no other option on the horizon. It’s Corecktall or prison. So, it’s a forward-looking name.

Still the insight that Franzen gives about US criminal justice policy is empowering to

incarcerated readers when zero corrective benefit solitary confinement is said.

After reading The Corrections, there were several contradictions. Still, I felt like the Franzen tried a little too hard with witty descriptive sentences that linger in the moment longer than needed.

Nevertheless, every word of this novel is so well placed to support the storyline that it’s worth the read. Parts of this novel will stay with me forever – the strength of motherhood, the complexity of character and especially Franzen’s ability to build a world so believable that at times I felt out of story and into the mindset of the author. Now, I don’t know if that’s good or bad, but this novel is a page-turner that I’d recommend reading, based simply of Franzen’s ability to dig deep into each character’s interior thought.



Letters to the Editor

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

A workout program that was started in prison has turned into a successful business.

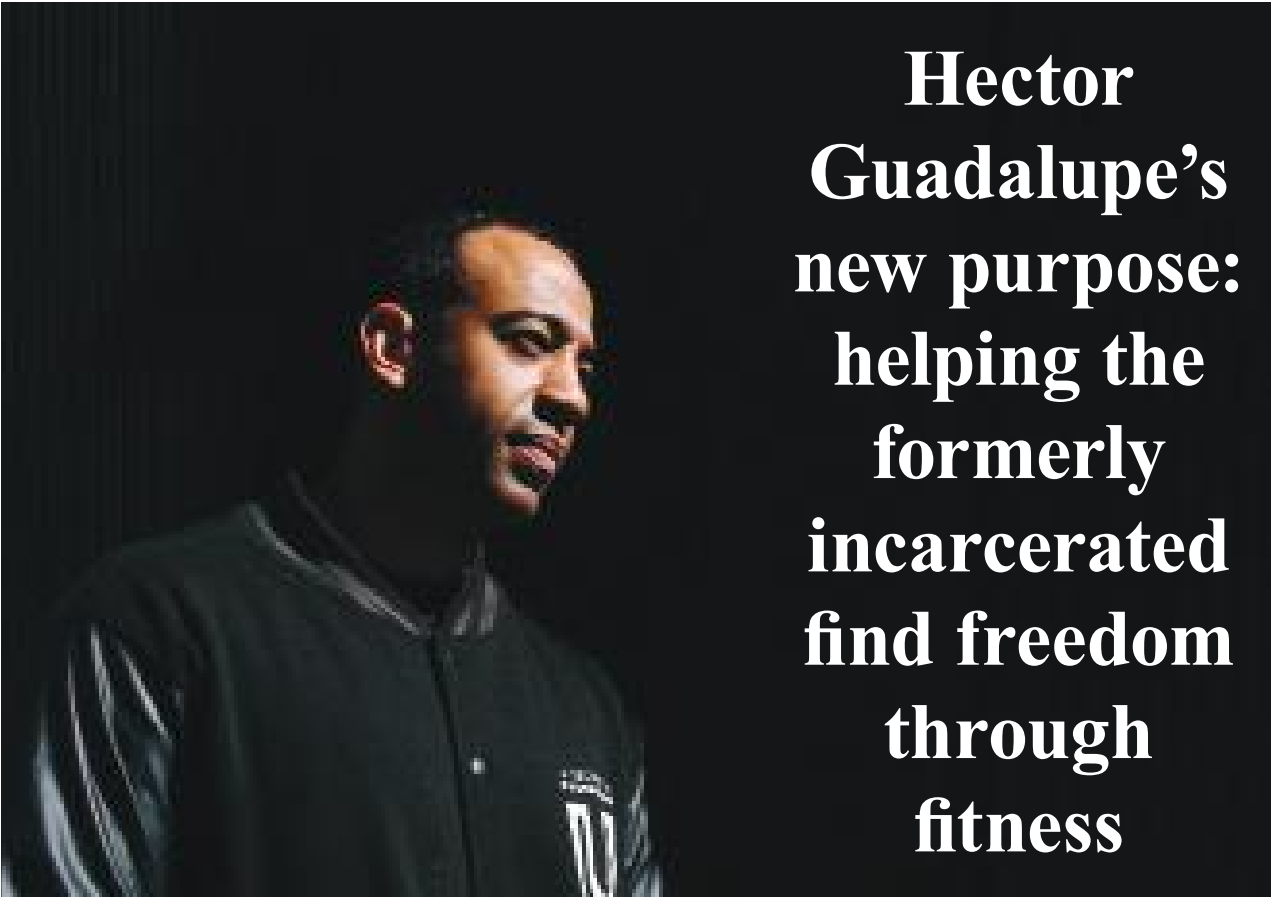
Hector Guadalupe, spent 10 years in prison for drug trafficking. While there he became obsessed with fitness.

“I was in a cell by myself and I just had a self-talk. And I’m like, ‘Damn, I’m here again.’... I just made a decision that this was the last time,” said Guadalupe on his incarceration.

Guadalupe changed his life, and achieved certification as a personal trainer. Adding, “the people that are home, taking care of their family, making a living – those are the people that I want to try and be like.”

A University of Michigan stud in 2018 stated that more than one in four formerly incarcerated individuals have difficulty securing meaningful work. That around 80% of those who find employment earn less than \$15,000 their first year in society. The statistics further show at least half of formerly incarcerated in federal facilities re-offend.

“Six days out of the week, I’m literally at every corporate club... filing out applications,” Guadalupe said. “Nobody was calling me back... and I knew why; because of



Hector Guadalupe served a 10-year sentence for drug offenses. During his incarceration, he underwent a transformation, earning certification as a personal trainer and later creating A Second U Foundation to help other formerly-incarcerated people.

my past ... But I didn’t give up.”

Guadalupe passion led him to create ‘A Second U Foundation’ which helps

formerly incarcerated men and women become certified as personal trainers. Which enables them to build careers in the fitness indus-

try. Ramsey was 15 years old when his mother died. Hanging with the wrong crowd placed Ramsey in a federal facility.

“Fitness – it got me through my time in prison” Ramsey said, “I knew how to work out, but I didn’t know the science behind everything.”

After being released he spent time in a halfway home where he heard of A Second Chance Foundation.

“The program was intense,” Ramsey said. “It was like studying to be a doctor.”

The program is free of cost. It is run by a team of volunteers and last eight weeks. The average class size is from 10 – 15 students. These student are provided a \$1,300 stipend, new clothing and transportation to the facility. Their also given software classes, and a free tablet with a keyboard.

“That’s what we’re here for, to support each other in that journey,” Guadalupe said. “We’re actually a family.”

More than 200 people have graduated from the program since 2016. In addition the program has less than a 1% recidivism rate. The students are mentored and have job placement once the graduate, said the article.

“they start at \$35 an hour, top out at \$80 an hour.

The program is designed to assist participants in passing the national fitness certification. It includes teaching kinesiology, bone structure, and anatomy. Once they graduate success is simple, aid the article.

“ -- When you provide people with a livable wages, they’re able to feed their families ... and be productive members of society,” Guadalupe said.

The San Quentin Athletics re-take the Field of Dreams

By Anthony Manuel Carvalho
Staff Writer

As the swallows majestically return to Capistrano, San Quentin Baseball returned after Covid-19 halted their attempt at a twenty-sixth consecutive season at the diamond located in the Lower Yard.

Players left from the 2019 season who produced the most winning team in SQ Sports history, returned this June in what would have been near mid-year of a regular season. The San Quentin A’s who finished 38-2 in 2019 had play suspended from March 2020 to this first day of try-outs.

During the first day of practice Manager Richard “Coach Will” Williams thanked the 28 people who embarked on joining the current team. Coach Will made sure everyone knew that most teams the organization plays against have not been cleared as of yet. “I was pleasantly surprised with the turnout. We did not expect much of a turnout,” said the manager.

A core of veterans return from the historic 2019 team and includes last year’s Most Inspirational Carrington “The Natural” Russelle and the teams’ two captains. The June open try-outs allowed 28 incarcerated people a chance to compete for 18 coveted spots.

In major league baseball there are approximately 900 spots that fill out the most fortunate and prosperous rosters. The uniqueness and competitive spirit is not over-looked nor under appreciated by the participants.

“Where else can anyone participate with professionals, while continuing rehabilitation...we are so lucky,” said last year’s co-captain Brandon Riddle-Terrell.

“Not to steal thunder from the legendary Lou Gehrig, but we all should consider ourselves the luckiest men on the face of the earth,” added co-captain, and bay area legend, Anthony “T-Tone” Denard. Denard was drafted in the 27th round of 1987



Photos by Phoeun You, SQNews

A’s Manager Richard Williams (center) strives to transform players and prepare them for return to their return to the community. Oscar Acosta (left) readies his pitching arm while Chris “Max” Hickson (right) prepares to pluck the ball right out of the sky.

amateur baseball draft by the Toronto Blue Jays.

An upbeat attitude permeated through the coaching ranks as well. The coaches continually challenge the team by saying “this team could be as good as the record-setting team we had.”

New Coach Rob Tyler said, “I am honored to help the team in any way I can.”

The most important leader of the A’s is Manager Richard Williams. “We are blessed to have Richard Williams as the leader of SQ Baseball.

His professionalism, passion and dedication are second to none,” said staff coach K. Bhatt.

“It is an honor and privilege to lead these men into competition daily as they transform into returning members of our communities. We provide discipline and all the tools necessary for our guys to go home to their family...that is our #1 goal,” said the focused manager.

The staff demands graciousness to all staff of CDCR, including Warden

Broomfield, Lieutenant Sam Robinson and their supporting assistants of our program, especially Ms. Raphaelle Casale who assists Warden Broomfield. “What Lieutenant Robinson represents, and what Raphaelle does for us daily is miraculous. How Ms. Raphaelle co-ordinates entry of outside players, the 25-plus teams, who enter through her approval and coordination never goes under appreciated. Without her and Lieutenant Robinson, we have no pro-

gram,” said manager Williams.

The San Quentin A’s play on what they call the ‘field of dreams’— complete with a sign in “Dead Center.”

The 2019 Manager of the Year for all of San Quentin sports continued, “We lost a lot of talent but picked up some great arms which is important as our run production should decrease.”

On May 8, 2020, during Governor Newsom’s State of Emergency Lunch Time Chat, he said, “At a time of healing

I know how important sports is...I know what Baseball did for me...I would not be here without sports...” Little did the leader of the largest state in the nation know how important San Quentin Baseball is to the entire community and how vital it plays a role in social reform.

No one envisioned a year and a half of quarantining would follow the magical year of 35 consecutive wins in 2019. Now San Quentin fans ask, will the team return to its level of excellence?

By Timothy Hicks
Sports Editor

It’s the general conversations through human connections that Garvin “JoJo” E. Robinson,66, had with all the athletes and sports teams and the SQ general population at his Rec Shack management job that helped him transform his life.

“Interaction is very important to me,” said “JoJo” E. Robinson. “It helped me with the board(BPH). I had read books on the art of speaking but, it was the actual talking to people that allowed me to be transparent. It was very influential.”

After 32 years in prison, Robinson made parole on April 15 and is anticipating his release. “I give God the glory. I can’t wait to go spend time with my family and my wife of 38 years who stood by me this entire time.”

In the small shack Robinson had the windows open allowing the cool breeze to flow through the room on a nice morning in June. All sorts of sports equipment was strategically placed around for Robinson to grab when needed, like an organized mess

JoJo Robinson values human connection

only he knew how to shuffle through.

Many residents line up at the open door to turn in their prison I.D. in exchange for some equipment. During these exchanges “JoJo” Robinson formulate conversations with the guys and it’s there where he experienced personal transformative qualities and beneficial characteristics.

“I take one person at a time, and dealing with people daily taught me how to deal with them and me,” Robinson said. “They help me deal with my patience and with my temperament. I learned a lot over these 32 years I been incarcerated.”

Robinson has met a lot of outside sports people that came into the prison to play against the residents. He met a boxer, a few tennis players and soccer players.

“All the sports equipment, inventory and everything regarding sports, we are the main source for all the Blocks - North, South and West Block

mainlines,” said “JoJo” Robinson. He has been the man in charge as the Recreational Clerk for 13 years at the Rec Shack. This place known as the Rec Shack, is the sports center for all SQ sports and recreation.

“They come to get general information, things loss on the yard, soccer balls, basketballs and all equipment’s. Horse shoes, boxing gloves, tennis rackets and balls, talk sports or play games, you name it,” said Robinson.

Out of all the Self-help groups “JoJo” Robinson has completed, such as; CRI, Restorative Justice, Criminal Thinking, Arc, he said that it’s the conversations he’s had with individuals at the Rec Shack that also helped him with his patience, his integrity and his compassion.

“It’s the service of others and the answering of the many questions I get. I credit the groups too. I remember the first AA group I attended that inspired me, Seeing a

hard tough guy get up and talk about his vulnerabilities encouraged me to wanna come back,” said Robinson.

Robinson been housed in SQ North Block for 13 years. He allows his cell to be used as a show cell for the outside people to see when they come in for a tour of the prison.

“I love the questions they have when they come in. About riots or anything as small as the cell,” Robinson said. “I talked to lawyers, doctors, law enforcement even politicians.”

When Robinson is not in his cell or in the Rec Shack he is on the yard watching the Soccer matches he loves. He grew up in Ghana where his father’s side of the family is originally from.

“Growing up in Africa where soccer is basically the only sport known, I learned it there and fell in love with it. I love all sports but, soccer is where my passion is.” Robinson also enjoys Ping Pong(Table Tennis) but, no matter what’s your favorite sport, “JoJo” Robinson said that it’s the simple conversations you have with people that count the most while you enjoy the sport.



Phoeun You, SQNews

A's Manager Richard Williams (center) strives to transform players and prepare them for return to their return to the community.

It’s more than just basketball

Prison Sports Ministry (PSM) representatives Don Smith and Bill Epling visited the Media Center at the Q on June 30th and had a conversation with a circle of 11 men about multiple concerning topics.

One of those topics was the future of outside basketball teams returning to San Quentin. Another topic involved having some type of connection with guys who make parole and for them to have other resources that will assist them in with their transition back into society.

“Our focus now is to see that when guys get out they can get the resources they need,” said Epling. Who’s always looking to help the guys with their spiritual quest. He said the only hang up is that the PSM program has limited access to guys when they make parole. Therefore, he and Don Smith have come to the prison to look for answers.

“Once I get out I want to get in touch with some guys and get some resources,” said former resident Orlando “Duck” Harris who has since recently paroled. “It’s inspirational to see someone who left here and doing well.”

Harris suggested that there should be a way to track guys once they parole and to at least follow up on them to see how they are doing.

Don Smith is interested in getting some feedback from the incarcerated on what ideas really work or not.

“We’re at a point where it’s to our advantage (PSM to help parolees),” said Smith. “And yes we can use your input for our program.”

Smith is a longtime volunteer at the prison. He and Epling have spent decades coming into the Q since starting the basketball relationship between outsiders and residents.

“My first game I played in SQ was in 1996,” said Smith. “I been coming back ever since. It’s been over 20 years since I started this program. We are a faith based program and since I love basketball and God why not do something good with them both.”

Before COVID hit the prison a year and a half ago, the SQ Warriors and the SQ Kings would match up against outside teams put together by PSM volunteers Epling and Smith. But when COVID hit, things came to an abrupt halt. Games froze and the two things Smith loved to do were stagnated.

“It was hard being separated from my biological family but, at least I could call or text them. However, being away from my spiritual family here at the prison was equally hard,” said Smith. “You guys are a big part of my personal life.”

When they (PSM) used to come B-Ball at the Q, the matches used to be competitive. Epling recalls one of the strategies his team would use to win games.

“It used to be fun to play,” Epling said. “But we used to count on the Warriors to get wore down so we could beat them. Skills was one thing, but strategy was another.” Another one of Epling tactic’s was the way he also used something he loved to do to help transform the guys and make a difference in their lives.

“For guys that’s out to receive the benefits and support from you guys (PSM) would be a big thing for guys out there to help push the program,” said resident Josh “JB” B. He has been a part of the program since 2011.

“Being a part of the program while in prison has impacted me in a positive way.”

Some of the things PSM reps. said is vital and crucial to guys rehabilitation and what they plan to help formally incarcerated men with are: guidance and transitional housing. They also said that helping the formally incarcerated will help expand their program while at the same time help people rebuild connections with their community.

--Timothy Hicks

Staying true to the game

Coach Jeremiah “JB” Brown (54) of the SQ Warriors loves the game of Basketball and he intends to bring to the team that skill-set they need that will elevate their game to another level.

“I love this game. I love basketball. To me it’s bigger than just B-ball though,” said Brown.

The power and energy that takes place when guys get around that B-ball is dynamic and it brings people together he said. Coach Brown has players rallying around him and they believe in his coaching capabilities. Coach Brown brings another element of coaching to the team that are undeniable a player said.

“I bring that intensity to the team. I can spot talent in a player from the way they dribble and just simply how they pass the ball. It’s how they coordination flows,” Brown said.

“Basketball to me is like cooking gumbo. You need all the ingredients to hit and each one brings its own flavor. Just like in B-ball. You need a shooter, a dribbler, a defender and so forth. But, for a gumbo to come together you need that special seasoning to make it stick like glue. I’m that glue when it

comes to basketball,” said Brown.

His 30 years of experience coaching some of the biggest athletes in sports today, gives him that special edge and credence players believe they have been missing from their repertoire.

“Anybody who played B-ball before can tell real coaching ability when they see it,” said a player who wants to remain anonymous. Players want to remain anonymous from fear of retaliation from other coaches who may cut them from the team for speaking out.

“A player can be a good player on his own but, when a player has a good coach he can be more than just a good player,” said anonymous. “A coach can strictly teach B-ball, but I believe that “JB” is teaching me about life as being a man.”

Brown spent most of his life training young men how to play B-ball but, he also groom them to be respectful young men off the court by being that father figure most of the men were missing in their lives. His stature and his no nonsense presence on the court earned him the respect from the players.

“Leadership starts with coaching, if you don’t re-

spect your coaches you don’t respect the team. In order to be a winning team it takes leadership, organizing, unity and patience,” said Brown. Guys on the team see that coach Brown is more than just a coach to them. He stops by and checks on them off the court too said a player.

“I can speak for most of the other players when I say that he is just real,” said anonymous.

Brown gave a list of names of some athletes he coached over the years before he came to prison, some who has since went pro. Dame Lillard, Leon Powe, Demarcus Nelson, Aaron Gordans brother Drew Gordan and even Lebron James were some of the names mentioned by coach Brown.

“I remember when we put Lebron in the game during the 3rd quarter and he jumped up and got the rebound. It seemed like he was gliding down the court. It looked like he was moving in slow motion compared to the other players trying to catch him. I saw something great in him back then. I knew he was gonna be something special,” said Brown.

–Timothy Hicks

The New York Knicks could not get out of the first round playoffs and got put out by the Atlanta Hawks. After almost 9 years of not being in the play offs and spending almost a decade building a team after Carmello Anthony, the Knicks finally had their opportunity to shine on the big stage. Advent fan Andrew Wadsworth, 36, from Oakland California was happy to see his team show up in the playoffs, even if they did not get to the Championship.

TH: How did you feel seeing your favorite B-ball team in the playoffs?

AW: I seen it coming, especially after we got that new coach.

TH: Coach Tom Thibodeau, yeah he’s a good coach. But yall still didn’t make it. After going that far and then being put out with 41 wins and

Tier Talk with Tim

31 loses, that must have been devastating to you being the fan you are?

AW: Yeah man, I was crushed. But at the same time I was proud of them. I thought we would go all the way, but I feel good even though we didn’t make it. At one time we even had a hot defense, we snatched fourth seed in the playoffs.

TH: Yeah, I felt the same way about the Warriors this season. When they didn’t make it I felt bad too, but I knew why we didn’t get there. We had a lot of key players out, particularly Klay. Draymond and Steph can’t do it by themselves. Speaking of the Warriors. I have to ask you, how can you

say you from Oakland and be a New York Knicks fan? That’s rare to see. Why not like the team from your own city? What made you dislike the Warriors?

AW: (Laughs)I was asked that same question by Draymond Green when the Warriors visited SQ a few years ago. I felt some kinda way about that too. But, I just never liked them (Warriors). Back in the day they wasn’t doing good. The Knicks was the team to beat. I consider myself to be the number one Warrior hater. I only liked the mascot. But, what made me hate them the most was when they got rid of Latrell Sprewell for choking out the coach. He was wrong for that but I didn’t understand that back then. But,

when he came to the Knicks I was super happy about that.

TH: Being in prison guys take sports very serious, especially teams from their own city. I can imagine the grief you must of received from people who are from your city once they found out that you were a Knicks fan.

AW: Yeah, I been called a turf hopper. That I abandoned the town. Oakland dudes in prison hate me for that. But I realize that it’s just they love for the sport. I don’t take it personal. The only thing that unify me with the Warriors was my Grandpa who was a fan. We would be team rivals and have fun with each other on our teams game days. I miss that.

TH: I can understand that. When did you fall in love with the Knicks?

AW: I fell in love with basketball after watching my first game in 1993. It was a Phoenix Suns game. I fell in love with the New York Knicks in the 93 or 94 season. John Starks was my favorite player. Julius Randle is one of favorite players for the Knicks now. I was fascinated with the Knicks like I still am today. I have Knicks paraphernalia all in my cell.

TH: Yeah I can see the New York Knicks handmade beaded chain you got on.

AW: Yeah, it’s amazing of the talent we have in prison.

TH: One last question. How did you feel when the Atlanta Hawks fans spit on Trey Young?

AW: It made me think of today’s racism and how bad

people can react to things. It took me back to when I saw Reggie Miller being antagonized by Spike Lee a long time ago. I’m so much a fan I think I love the Knicks more than some New Yorkers.

TH: Imagine the irony in that. Sort of like you being from Oakland and not a Warrior fan. (Laughs)

–Timothy Hicks

By Edwin E. Chavez
Staff Writer

Compassion in action: Manuel Flores gives back

As a means of dealing with the stress of incarceration and the COVID-19 pandemic, a San Quentin prisoner creates and donates art to children with cancer.

“I do my art to keep me busy, so that I can think positive,” said Manuel Flores.

Flores’ art portrays heart shaped frames of Jesus, and baby shoes that can be hung around people’s neck, in vehicles or displayed in a prison cell.

Incarcerated since 1981, 75-year-old Flores has spent approximately eight-years at San Quentin, creating pictures frames and jewelry boxes made out of paper. He began his artistic creations in a prison hobby shop. When the hobby shop closed, however, he continued creating art—for the past 35 years.

“The benefits for me are the hellos and the responses that I get about my art from people in the outside world,” Flores said.

The soft-spoken Flores points out how fortunate he is to be able to donate his art to organizations for children with cancer. He sends the art to his nephews and they delivered it to hospitals or sale the items to their neighbors or to church donating the profits to Children Hospitals, mostly in the Oakland, California area.

Humility, he said, comes from his knowing that children should not be suffering



Photos by Phoeun You, SQNews

On a nearly-deserted lower yard, Manual Flores (above left) perches atop his bucket seat for hours at a time, crafting his colorful creations for donation to children suffering from cancer. Above right, Flores creates large and small picture frames with religious pictures, and miniature shoes.

or dying from such an “evil disease.”

“We need to do more than just sit around in our cells watching TV,” Flores, said.

His devotion to his craft is evident as he sits quietly against a fence on the yard, working and feeding the birds. He receives multiple orders for his work, and at times

has difficulty coming up with ideas for his multitude of orders.

“I’ve been in prison for almost 30 years, and I have never met someone who is devoted to make a change in the lives of children like Flores this is why I purchased some of the items from Flores,” said

Luis Lopez, a San Quentin prisoner.

Flores is enthusiastic about completing as many projects as possible.

“If I ever get to parole from prison I want to open my own business on leathering and craft-smith to teach the trade my relatives in Mexico so they

won’t be working the fields for nothing,” said Flores.

Flores would like to continue donating to children with cancer even after prison. He would like to bring this attribution to his relatives, as they will be earning a living making leather belts and wallets, a trade that he learned while

incarcerated at Tracy State Prison.

“I have robbed my community of many things in the past, now I want to live the rest of my life by giving back to the innocent ones,” said Flores. “No child shall be deprived of having a sunny day in their lives.”

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Painter Ben Chandler channels impressionism

Ben Chandler, 57 has spent five of the six years he has been incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. His favorite painters are Picasso and Michael Angelo. Nevertheless, he likes working in color schemes in impressionistic styles and give it a more realistic look. I painted Perfect Plate for my grandmother’s kitchen. He said the he enjoys painting still life.

“I enjoy inanimate objects,” Chandler said. “My favorite subjects are scenic, anything that involves water. I’ve always lived by a lake or ocean.”

Chandler said that he started drawing in pencil at a young age. While in college, he took on photography were he said he took more than 4,000 images. Once he got to prison, he began painting in oils.

“Some instructors would get upset with me, because I’d never follow the fundamentals, however; other liked vivid color schemes I created,” Chandler said.

Solitude is a house in the forest that reminds him of an old home he used to pass on the way to a lake where he fished.

“When I lived in Temecula, the house looks like one that I always saw,” Chandler said. “It brought back memories and then I painted Solitude.

“The Car is something that I made on a gloomy day and painted where I wanted to be,” Chandler said.

Chandler said painting takes him places that he cannot imagine.

“I like people to see how precious it is to creating something—to take the time to do something that’s therapeutic—to be in control of creating beauty—to use your hands to create something beautiful,” Chandler said.

Chandler said that he appreciates how art shows up in history.

“Art has been with us since the beginning of time. Cave men painted in cave wall of their hunts or things that happened in their lives. That’s beautiful because it tells a story on something that can be

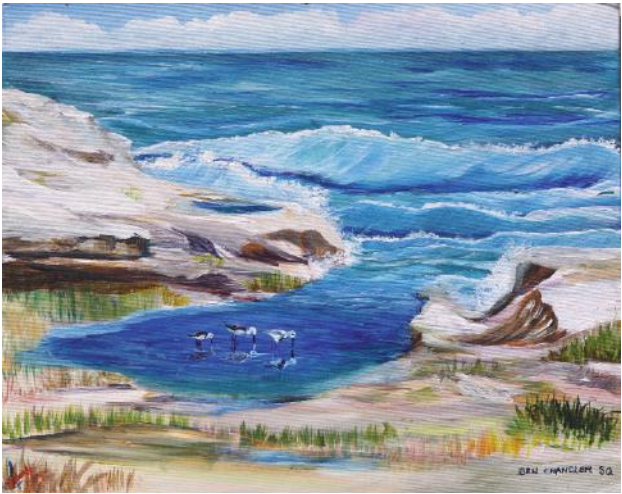
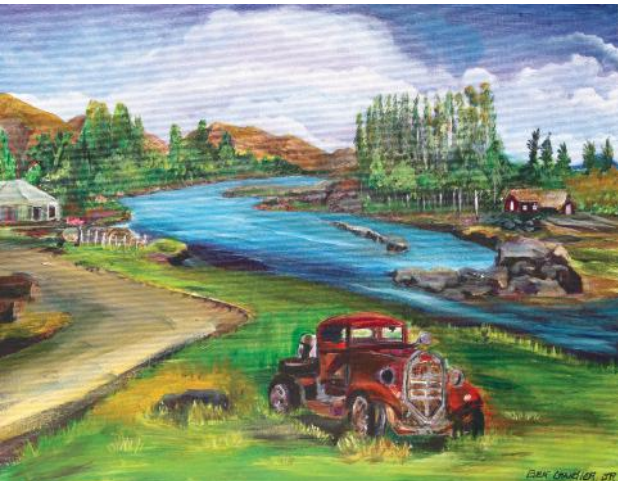


Photos by Phoeun You, SQNews

On a nearly-deserted lower yard, Manual Flores (above left) perches atop his bucket seat for hours at a time, crafting his colorful creations for donation to children suffering from cancer.

seen at any time. It will always be there to see.

Chandler said that he never met anyone who could take pictures or paint who were bad people. “They’re always good people,” Chandler said. “You create from your own ideas at the moment.”



Above: “Solitude” brought back memories of a home he used to pass by.
Top Right: “The Car” was the artist’s escape on a gloomy day.
Bottom Right: Chandler displays two of his still-life paintings.
Below: “My favorite subjects are scenic,” the painter says, “anything that involves water. I’ve always lived by a lake or ocean.”