

San Quentin News



WRITTEN BY PRISONERS – ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE



VOL. 2019 NO. 1

January 2019 Edition 112

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,966

CALPIA GM Chuck Pattillo retires

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

The longest serving general manager in the history of the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), Charles L. “Chuck” Pattillo is stepping down from that post, but will still assist incarcerated people prepare for good jobs, once released.

Pattillo’s effort continue to save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in incarceration cost, yearly.

Pattillo supervised all 27 CALPIA activities for 14 years. It employs 8,000 offenders throughout California’s 36 prisons.

Last November, Inside CDCR interviewed Pattillo.

“Under Chuck’s leadership, PIA ventured into areas not traditionally considered for employment of inmates — such as computer coding and computer aided design — but high in demand for the society to which they would be released,”

said California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Acting Secretary of Corrections Ralph Diaz. “But Chuck’s passion went much farther than that. He recognized the potential of each individual and afforded them an opportunity to realize that potential. This attitude was on display each time I toured a program with Chuck; he knew the inmates by name and the accomplishments they had achieved, an attitude mirrored by his staff. His leadership will be greatly missed.”

Pattillo says that he’s proud of CALPIA’s workplace development branch, Career Technical Education (CTE) and called it “the model rehabilitation program in the world.”

CTE training includes deep-sea diving, pre-apprenticeship training, computer coding and computer assisted design.

See **PATTILLO** on Page 4



Members from Females Achieving Change Together (F.A.C.T.) group

Photo by Ike Dodson, CDCR PIO

Bay Area reentry event empowers 68 female parolees

By Ike Dodson
CDCR PIO

SAN FRANCISCO — Jasmine Washington lifted the lapels of her sleek blazer and boldly strutted between rows of fellow women parolees at the Southeast Community Facility in San Francisco on Oct. 24.

Surrounded by 67 of her peers, representatives from 56 local resource service providers and the supportive Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) staff from the Adult Programs Unit (APU), Washington

displayed her own empowerment just as sharply as she did her new suit — courtesy of Dress for Success.

“I think that I was showing the change that I see in myself,” Washington explained at the 4th Annual Females Achieving Change Together (F.A.C.T.) event. “A few years back I was doing drugs, and I was ready to go. Every time I got high I was hoping it was that hit that would take me out this planet — I was ready to be gone.”

“Now I feel like I’ve gained meaning, and I feel like I am able to just

grow and be proud about it.”

Washington showcased her new interview apparel and visited with community specialists who offered opportunities in job training, employment, education, women’s health and family resources. Service providers, some of them formerly incarcerated, also offered hearty support for apprenticeships, mental health, sex-trafficking prevention/awareness, violence intervention and even tattoo removal.

See **F.A.C.T.** on Page 10



Photo courtesy of Michelle Kane

Chuck Pattillo walking with Mark Zuckerberg in San Quentin’s Code 7370

Prison to Employment Connection teaches returning citizens job skills



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQJ

Potential employers meeting with Prison to Employment graduates

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

A record number of inmates at San Quentin State Prison completed the Prison to Employment Connection’s (PEC) eighth session and graduated in November.

About 40 inmates finished the

program. This gave them the opportunity to assess their employment interests, learn resume-writing and how to conduct themselves during an interview.

At employer day, the men spent two hours using what they learned on how to present themselves to more than 30 employers, career

placement experts and trade unions.

“It’s a great program,” said inmate Forrest Jones, 56. “It gives a person like me a chance to get employment.” Jones was found suitable for release by the Board of Parole Hearings in June.

See **PEC** on Page 20



Photo by Neil Terpkosh

Amber Shields with James King (video screen) presenting their paper

Incarcerated student challenges educators at national conference

By Joe Garcia
Staff Writer

An incarcerated Black college student challenged the nation’s prison educators to rethink how they consistently force predominant White cultural perspectives onto the non-Whites who fill their classrooms.

James King’s voice reached across the country to Indianapolis by way of video, where he introduced an

academic paper he co-authored with Prison University Project (PUP) colleague Amber Shields at the National Conference on Higher Education in Prison.

“Unfortunately, I’m not able to attend,” King said in the pre-recorded message before the intimate crowd. “I had a prior engagement — San Quentin State Prison.”

See **KING** on Page 5

San Quentin News is written and produced by prisoners. We are supported solely by grants and donations from the outside community. To make a donation, visit our website at: sanquentinnews.com or send a tax-deductible check or money order payable to:

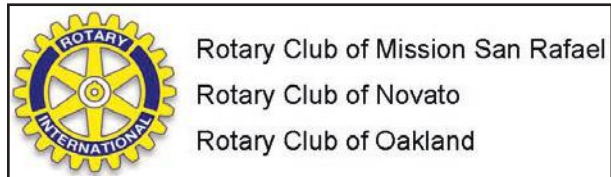


Social Good Fund
 "Friends of San Quentin News"
 P.O. Box 494
 San Quentin, CA 94964

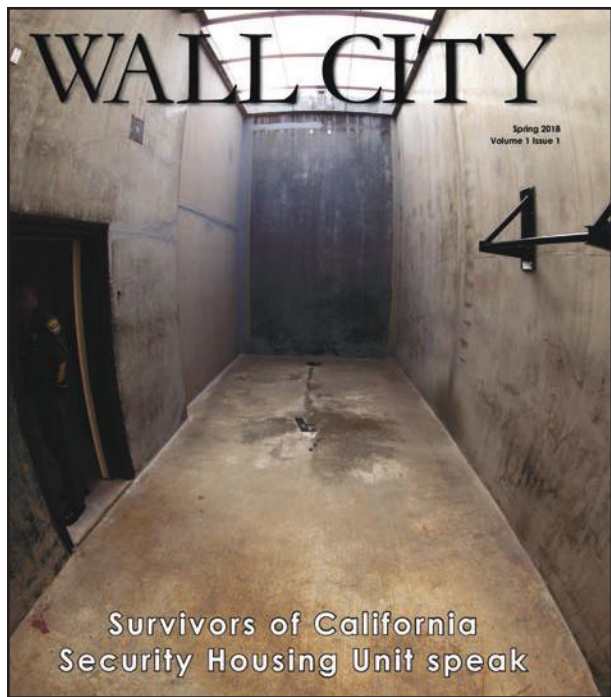


In the check memo section, please write "Friends of San Quentin News."

Thank you for your support!



Wall City Magazine is more than just stories-- it's a look into transformation, humanity and re-building community.



Dr. Tootell's legacy at San Quentin

By Marcus Henderson
 Journalism Guild Chairman

For the last 11 years Dr. Elena Tootell has been overseeing San Quentin's strained medical care, a system she described as occasionally "chaotic." Now the physician is moving north to Pelican Bay State Prison.

Dr. Tootell has become more than just another prison physician. She has become a part of the San Quentin community.

"I had breast cancer a few years ago, and just the support I got from the inmates was a huge sign that I was doing something good," she said. "I was invited to the prison Breast Cancer Walk."

Dr. Tootell came to work as San Quentin's chief medical executive in 2008, just before the prison went into federal medical receivership.

She established a diabetes class and collaborated with the Mental Health Department to create an inmate cancer support group. She has also overseen an inmate-patient tracking system.

"When I first came here, it was a lot of mistrust of the medical system," said Tootell. "I remember the Health Fair happened, but medical was not invited to participate."

(San Quentin has an annual Health Fair established by the inmate support group T.R.U.S.T.)

"That to me was a sign that they were inviting doctors from the outside to get a second opinion. So I felt there was reason for the mistrust. They weren't getting the medical treatment, and we had to acknowledge that," added Tootell.

"Before the receivership there wasn't a system in place," said Tootell. "The patients didn't know who their doctors were. They didn't know how they were going to get their medication."

"Sometimes the inmate-patients didn't show up for their appointments." She describe this time period as chaotic.

"It was rare to have the patient, the patient's chart and their lab work at the same time," said Tootell. "We wanted to implement a preventive health care system instead of having this urgent reaction to their health care."

Dr. Tootell and the medical staff then set out to let the prison population know that they were there to change things.

"What I wanted was to provide an approachable face," she said.

With that small gesture,



Dr. Elena Tootell giving a speech at the diabetic graduation in 2016



Dr. Tootell at the SQ Chapel



Dr. Tootell speaking at the Avon Breast Cancer walk in 2012

Dr. Tootell's people-to-people approach built a system of doctor-patient trust that won the inmate population's respect.

"Now we are invited to the Health Fair to participate, and I think that's meaningful that we are considered to help provide health care advice to this community," she added.

"I think that's one of the dreams of a doctor -- is that they are going to take care of a patient population, but also to have a community that will take care of them too," she said.

Dr. Tootell created health care that went beyond the prison hospital doors. She started programs to help inmates take responsibility for their own health.

"That's why I wanted to do groups. There are so many health care conditions that the patients can actually control themselves. Diabetes, I

think, is the biggest one," she said.

"And there is just not a lot of time in a doctor or nurse visit with the patients to really go through and talk about the physiology of diabetes, the medication, the diet," she added.

The diabetes class was created and has since graduated multiple inmates. The program has expanded to Death Row. It has provided the participants /patients the knowledge of their disease and how to take control of their lifestyle.

Dr. Tootell is ready to take her skills to another prison, one that has the reputation as one of the toughest penitentiaries in the state.

"I don't think Pelican Bay will be all that different. They have a good health care team, and they are moving more to a level-two population now," said Tootell. "So I expect

that they will be growing around that.

"I know they still have the max group (maximum security) there, and I think it will be like here when we have to deal with condemned row," she added.

Dr. Tootell expects that not a lot of programs there, but still hopes to do programs and work with the patients.

"Being here was a wonderful place to actually practice medicine," she said. "I had really lovely patients I dealt with. They were really engaged in their health care."

"It was great to partner with the institutional side, the rest of the health care community and the prison population," she added. "I feel like this: There is a group of people who really want good things for themselves. The whole basis is hope, and medicine can be a part of that hope."

Federal judge rules Houston officials intentionally destroyed evidence

By Antoine Smith
Journalism Guild Writer

When Houston city officials erased crucial data from top police commanders' computer drives, they intentionally

destroyed evidence, a federal judge has ruled, according to the *Houston Chronicle*. The evidence is believed to be relevant to a 2016 class-action lawsuit that accuses officials of false imprisonment when

people were jailed for days following warrantless arrests between January 2014 and December 2016.

If the suit goes to trial, the jury will be made aware of this ruling by the U.S. district

judge and will likely infer that the officials violated defendants' constitutional rights to equal protection and violated the 48-hour time limit on detentions prior to a determination of probable cause by a judge.

The suit was filed following the January 2016 arrests of Juan Hernandez and James Dossett. Hernandez spent 49 hours in custody before seeing a magistrate on an assault charge, while James Dossett was held for 59 hours before facing a hearing officer. Hernandez pled guilty after a week in custody, but authorities failed to prove Dossett had drugs and dropped the charges.

Other arrests cited in the suit include defendants who were held for more than 10 days without a probable cause

hearing. The plaintiffs' lawyers maintained that overcrowding at the county jail led to a bottleneck at the city facility. Charles Gerstein, a lawyer for the complainants, said that the city could find ways to remedy the problem, such as releasing people from jail or making sure they got their hearings. Instead, he said, "The city jailed them and let them suffer the consequences of the problems at the county and city jail...They exhibited callous indifference to the rights of poor people."

City lawyers claimed the scope of information the plaintiffs were asking was confusing and that it was sensitive police data. Even so, the judge held that not only had the city failed to deliver thousands of promised documents but also misrepresented what

information it had.

Another lawyer for the plaintiffs, Amanda Elbogen, described the city's legal department as "Either in disarray, or incompetent, or possibly unethical, or all three."

Officials admitted that records curators failed to preserve documents on hard drives and continued a practice of deleting data despite the city being obligated to retain it, once the inmates sued.

The ruling is a notable one, as it will tell the jury that the plaintiff's lawyers have already proven all the points they needed to establish, according to law professor Sandra Guerra Thompson.

"There's still a chance a jury could rule in the city's favor, but basically, the judge is instructing them that the plaintiffs have won," she said.

Risk assessment tools designed against youth offenders

By Noel Scott
Journalism Guild Writer

Risk assessment tools designed to decrease prejudice in sentencing may be causing discrimination toward youth offenders, reports Wendy Sawyer for the Prison Policy Initiative.

These risk assessment tools score people based on many factors that can add to risk, including criminal history and age. Judges use them when sentencing, and parole boards rely on them to determine parole suitability.

"Eighteen-year-old defendants have risk scores that are, on average, twice as high as 40-year-old defendants," law professors Megan T. Stevenson and Christopher Slobogin found.

Juveniles are often given a score of "high-risk," with no regard to their developmental difference from adults.

In a recent academic paper by Stevenson and Slobogin, they determined that many judges did not know all the factors that went into these risk assessment algorithms

and often receive classifications of risk without an explanation about what led to the determination.

This raises serious ethical and legal implications when judges who use these assessment tools don't fully understand them. They're also causing judges to make the same sort of discriminatory errors that the tools are supposed to prevent.

Youth is a "double-edged sword," according to Stevenson and Slobogin, as youth offenders are seen as less culpable, but they are also seen as having a higher risk of violence. Judges across the nation often consider the diminished culpability of juvenile defendants when sentencing them, but risk assessment tools don't.

Stevenson and Slobogin analyzed the COMPAS Violent Recidivism Risk Score (VRRS), one of the leading risk assessment tools. They found that "roughly 60 percent of the risk score it produces is attributable to age."

The study examined seven other risk assessment

algorithms and found that each of them considers youth to be equal or more important than criminal history in determining risk. This causes a judge's perception of the defendant's character to be unfairly affected, which also impacts sentencing.

In a recent survey of Virginia judges, only 29 percent of them were found to be "very familiar" with the risk assessment tool they were using, while 22 percent were either "unfamiliar" or only "slightly familiar" with it. In Virginia, risk assessment scores come with sentencing recommendations, Sawyer reports.

Risk assessments are further complicated by both mitigating and aggravating factors such as substance-use disorders, mental illness and socioeconomic disadvantages.

Judges and parole boards can exercise discretion when making determinations, but, as Stevenson and Slobogin point out, you can't undo the negative influence that a "high-risk" label will have.

Poll find Americans' perceptions of crime varies

By Lloyd Payne
Journalism Guild Writer

A decreasing number of Americans believe crime is an extremely or very serious problem, a recent Gallup Poll reported.

The poll found that Americans' perception of crime rates and the actual statistics are different, according to *thehill.com*. Crime rates have fallen nationwide in the U.S. since

the 1990s. However, the number of Americans who say crime is increasing is still high at 60 percent,

Forty-nine percent of 1,019 people surveyed in October also said crime is a serious or extreme problem; the year before the number was 59 percent.

Forty-two percent said crime was dropping in their neighborhood and only a fourth said it was rising.

According to *thehill.com*, it

was the first year since 2001 that more Americans have said crime was decreasing locally. Also on a local scale only 9 percent said crime was a very serious or extremely serious problem.

In 2009, 79 percent of the people said crime was rising, but the FBI crime rates fell between 2014-2018.

The margin for error on the survey is plus or minus 4 percentage points, according to the Gallup Poll.

Prison officials block fraud complaints from inmates

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Inmates at Sun City prison in Johannesburg, South Africa, attempted to file a fraud complaint against staff members but claim the investigation was blocked by prison officials.

The focal point of the allegation regarded the high costs and absence of profits from the canteens used for prisoner recreation activities, according to *GroundUp.org* and later reprinted in the *Daily Maverick* newspaper.

The prison has two canteens. One is used by prison staff and the other is used by 3,000 inmates. Inmates assert that the prison staff is charging them a 20 percent markup. Long-standing prison policy is to add five

percent to the cost of items to support sports and recreation for inmates. Additionally, another five percent of total canteen profits is supposed to benefit the inmates.

Inmates argue that Section 118 of the Correctional Services Act prohibits prison officials from benefiting from inmate-generated revenue.

Lucas Mokholo, deputy chairperson of the inmates' Participative Management Committee in Sun City, said a complaint had been filed by the inmates but that it has not been acknowledged by prison officials.

The canteen-related allegation is not the only issue being faced by Sun City. Earlier this year, inmates filed a suit claiming that their meals were sometimes distributed 20 hours apart due to staff

shortages. Some days both lunch and dinner were served at 1 p.m., and they were not served another meal until the next morning.

The South Gauteng High Court rendered a judgment that meals must be spaced throughout the day urging the prison to serve "a hot meal of meat and vegetables in the evening to sustain them until breakfast the following morning."

One inmate told *GroundUp* that some of their subsequent evening meals consisted of a "sachet of concentrated juice and five slices of bread."

"In terms of the court order, the department was ordered that the interval between the last meal of the previous day and breakfast the next day should not exceed 14 hours," the Department of

Correctional Services said, ignoring the mention of meat and vegetables.

The correctional agency is required to report back to the court within 60 days to prove that it followed the court order. Additionally, the court has ordered the prison to produce full records of its profits dating back to 2011.

In response to the allegations of misappropriating canteen funds, the agency replied, "The department is not aware of any fraud allegations or a letter requesting to open a case with SAPS against correctional officials."

The agency added, "There is no directive in the court order which requires the department to reduce prices and also not to make profits out of sales at trading points."

Trump directs immigration to reject applicants

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

President Trump's administration will begin implementing new rules that will direct immigration officers to reject naturalization, visa petitions and green cards to applicants deemed likely to become a "public charge," according to *The Nation*.

"The rules about public charges have masked discrimination in the immigration process for more than a century," said Chris Richardson, a former consular officer for the State Department.

The purpose of the "public charge" was to prevent Irish Catholics immigrating to the United States and dates back to the Immigration Act of 1882. This act prevented entry to "any convict, lunatic, idiot, or any person unable to take care of himself or herself with-

out becoming a public charge." The law was altered in 1892 and 1917 to ensure the deportation of "undesirable aliens."

Richardson was a visa officer in countries like Nigeria and Nicaragua. He judged the worthiness of immigrant applicants based on their wealth and privilege. "That's bad enough," he said, "The public charge designation has long been a racist tool. But with these new regulations, the Trump team has found a way to use bureaucracy to maximize the suffering of immigrants."

From the 1880s to the 1940s, officers used the public charge rule to block hundreds of thousands of people from entering the United States. Public charge was heavily used until World War II, but it did not fully disappear as it still barred admission of unmarried women, gays, lesbians and

disabled people. People who were barred did not meet "American norms."

The current process for applicants to reunite with relatives is through the visa process. This process requires an "affidavit of support," which designates a sponsor who promises to support the applicant financially.

The new rules "will direct immigration officers to reject naturalization, visa petitions, and green cards for individuals who have taken advantage of assistance like Medicaid, food stamps, or even Earned Income Tax Credits," Richardson wrote.

Officers also look at the "totality of the circumstances," which includes factors such as age, health, family status, education and financial status.

This means that a predominantly White consular official judges the worthiness of

predominantly Brown immigrants visa applicants. In some circumstances, officers have denied entry to children with cerebral palsy and delayed entry because an applicant's wife did not speak English.

Richardson wrote, "The rules are laid out in our Foreign Affairs Manual. There is no scoring system or algorithm; the decision is left to the consular officer."

Ian Smith, one of the individuals who helped craft President Trump's expanded public-charge regulation, was forced to resign from the Department of Homeland Security because of ties to White nationalists.

Richardson wrote, "The Trump administration, having been unable to build its promised wall, is now using the public charge to meet those same racists, xenophobic aims." The changes were scheduled to go into effect in January 2019.

San Quentin News

San Quentin News Staff

Staff Administrative Review

Richard Richardson, Executive Editor
Jesse Vasquez, Editor-in-Chief
Juan Haines, Senior Editor
Kevin D. Sawyer, Associate Editor
Jonathan Chiu, Managing Editor
Marcus Henderson,
Journalism Guild Chairman
Rahsaan Thomas, Staff Writer
Wayne Boatwright, Staff Writer
David Lê, Staff Writer
David Ditto, Staff Writer
Timothy Hicks, Staff Writer
Joe Garcia, Staff Writer
Aron Roy, Staff Writer
Javier Jimenez, Photographer
Juan Espinosa, Layout Designer
Richard Lindsey, Researcher

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

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

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

We Want To Hear From You!

The *San Quentin News* encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the *San Quentin News*.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

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

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

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

Behind the Scenes



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

The ladies of Beauty Behind Bars return to San Quentin

By Timothy Hicks
Staff Writer

An all-women's organization, aimed at inspiring incarcerated people to overcome their despair and anger, visited San Quentin on Nov. 3 for the second time in two years.

"There is beauty in any and all situations," said Beauty Behind Bars founder Tiffany Love-Harden inside the Inter-Faith Chapel on the Saturday afternoon. "My bars may be different from your bars, but we must all find the beauty behind bars. All of our prisons are not the same."

Love-Harden added, "With this movement, the goal is to teach everyone to get off mental death row and onto blessed row."

Her presentation gave the incarcerated men a perspective on how some actions and some consequences may shape the generations to come.

"Something Mrs. Tiffany Love said about children, who grew up with adult issues, grow up to be adults with childhood issues they never forgot," said Steven Bustamante, an incarcerated man in the audience.

Kamaria Payne, Dr. Sareya Byrd McKinney and Rhonda Brown made up the rest of the faith-based organization.

The women hail from Tennessee and New York. They work together to spread a message of hope and perseverance to incarcerated men, women, students and free people nationwide. Their stories are of overcoming drug abuse, sexual abuse, death, identity awareness and mental depression.

Payne told her father about coming to San Quentin. She said that she urged him to write a letter specifically tailored for the men at the prison. The letter was about the importance of maintaining a relationship with their children while incarcerated. After the letter was read, the packed room of more than 60 men and women, many in tears, gave her a standing ovation.



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

The ladies from Beauty Behind Bars speaking to a prisoner on the Lower Yard

"You can still make an impact in the lives of your children, no matter where you are," Payne said. "Ask me how I know, because my father is currently serving year 25 of his sentence, and we have a beautiful relationship."

The spiritual women shared some of the most intimate and delicate parts of their lives. Their soliloquies gave the men in blue an honest perspective from a woman's point of view.

Treyontae "December"

Hogg expressed inspiration through a song, I Cannot Avoid Myself.

"The women from Beauty Behind Bars gave me a vision of how the daughters of incarcerated men feel about their fathers being away," Hogg said.

Dr. McKinney, who is also a minister, delivered her speech, *Breaking Free*, with enthusiasm. She shared a story about losing many men in her family due to the heroin epidemic and the street life in Brooklyn.

"I was protected in Hell and safe in dark places the way my father watched over me," said McKinney, speaking of her father's protection over her against similar fates the other men in her family experienced.

After listening to McKinney, James Metters, an incarcerated man, said he learned how the women from Beauty Behind Bars saved young girls from making some of the same kind of mistakes they made as young girls.

McKinney said she reached out to young girls and shared her story, and she gives all the glory to God for the recovery of her family after a lifetime of struggles and surviving on her own.

"Who the Son sets free is free indeed," McKinney said. She added while making the quote symbol, "Unapologetically."

Her "sister from another mister," Rhonda Brown, complimented the four members of Beauty Behind Bars on their mission.

Brown graced the men with her portion of self-confidence and self-awareness. Her struggles with identity and

living the street life affected Mark Stanley-Bey, who identified with Brown's story. He said her story made him want to donate some of his art to her project, I'm International Ministries.

Leaving the men inspired, Brown reminded them what she believes to be their true identity. The Christian woman said, "I am who He says I am."

The women spoke at a group, No More Tears, founded by Lonnie Morris about 16 years ago.

Morris said that he developed No More Tears to help reduce the tears of families who lost loved ones from acts of violence.

"It means no more tears for pain, no more tears for anguish, and no more tears for grief," Morris said.

After the last presentation, No More Tears facilitator, R. "Neffew" Bankston, recited a poem, *Shift*.

The session ended with Love-Harden performing a rap and sharing information to assist men who are up for parole, need shelter and other assistance that may help them when they return to the community.

Prison journalism gaining traction throughout the nation

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Prison journalism is gaining popularity in California and America, including San Quentin.

For several years, inmates from coast to coast have been receiving instruction on how to write as journalists for prison publications.

Several prisons within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) already have newspapers and newsletters. Others have contacted the *San Quentin News* to inquire on how to start their own publication.

"An inmate publication means any journal, magazine, bulletin, newsletter, newspaper, or other material published by inmates," the California Code of Regulations,

Title 15 states. "Inmates may participate in the publication and distribution of an inmate publication only with the institution head's specific approval."

The *San Quentin News* has been training inmates to write as journalists for more than a decade, leading to creating the Friday morning Journalism Guild class. Advisers John Eagan and Yukari Kane have been instrumental in cultivating the development of many emerging journalists.

The road has been opened for San Quentin, but there are 2.3 million people incarcerated in the United States. Many of these prisoners have media restrictions placed upon them, so getting their voice out is limited. However, volunteers and organizations on both ends of the country are assisting

them.

On the East Coast, University of Massachusetts journalism professor Shaheen Pasha volunteered in 2013 to teach inmates journalism at the Hampshire County Jail and House of Corrections in Northampton, Mass., according to the *Daily Collegian*.

"There were so many of them (students) that stuck out to me while teaching there," Pasha told the *Collegian*. "They were all so smart and so professional."

"Right now, I am looking at other places that are already doing the type of work I am interested in, like the San Quentin newspaper."

In late 2018, Pasha spent two days at the *San Quentin News* office, meeting its inmate journalists and learning about San Quentin's media center.

The CDCR has several little-known newspapers and newsletters published by prisoners, volunteers and staff.

Here & Now is published at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, California State Prison Solano has *Solano Vision*. At Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, there's *Chucky*. The women at the California Correctional Women's Facility have *Fire Inside*. High Desert State Prison has its *High Desert Sun* (and the *Seagull*).

North Kern Valley State Prison publishes *The Pioneer* and Mule Creek State Prison has the *Mule Creek Post*.

In 1974, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall wrote the opinion in *Martinez v. Proctor*. "When the prison gates slam behind an inmate, he does not lose his human quality; his mind does not become closed to ideas; his intellect does not cease to feed on a free and open interchange of opinions; his yearning for self-respect does not end; nor is his quest for self-realization concluded. If anything, the needs for identity and self-respect are more compelling in the dehumanizing prison environment... It is the role of the 1st Amendment and this Court to protect those precious personal rights by which we satisfy such basic yearnings of the human spirit."

"Prison periodicals, in many instances, have provided that medium," wrote James McGrath Morris in his book *Jailhouse Journalism*. "They have afforded an opportunity for men (and less often, for women) deprived of all the rights most people take for granted to voice their ideas, thoughts, and version of the truth without interpreters. Truth is always a precious and elusive thing but more so in prison."

Prison newspaper and

magazine publications in the U.S. numbered around 250 in 1959, but fell to fewer than a dozen by the new millennium, according to a 2014 article in *The Nation*.

A handful of prison publications survived, such as *The Angolite* at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, *The Echo* at Texas's Huntsville prison, and *The Prison Mirror* founded in 1887 at Stillwater Prison in Minnesota. Some of *The Mirror's* seed money was reportedly bankrolled by the Younger Brothers of the Jesse James Gang.

Many remaining prison publications are relatively new. America's first-known prison newspaper, *Forlorn Hope*, was published in 1800, "born in the squalor of an 18th century debtors' prison," McGrath wrote.

"The dearth of prison publications is ironic in that the inmate population grew to record levels in the 1990s," Morris wrote. "... (T)he success of prison officials in suppressing confrontational prison periodicals, are certainly part of the explanation for the absence of a strong prison press."

The *San Quentin News* was founded in 1940 by Warden Clinton Duffy. The last time it was shut down was in the late 1980s. Before it was revived in 2008 by then-Warden Robert Ayers Jr., it was the winner

of the American Penal Press award for the Best Prison Newspaper in 1966, 1967, 1972 and 1981. In 1968, the *News* won the Charles C. Clayton award, named after the man who was reportedly the first person to teach journalism inside of a prison. He was also the founder of the award competition sponsored by the Southern Illinois University Department of Journalism from 1965 to 1990.

According to a story written by Pasha in the *Nieman Reports*, "San Quentin State Prison is a good example of an institution that has found a balance between giving the inmates a voice and maintaining stability at the prison." She added that the paper "is widely seen as a model for prison journalism and innovation, through its administration's willingness to engage in rehabilitative programming and educational opportunities."

In 2014, the *San Quentin News* was presented with The James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for "accomplishing extraordinary journalism under extraordinary circumstances."

In a recent Journalism Guild class at the *News*, several inmates said the reason they transferred to San Quentin is because of its newspaper.



PATTILLO

Continued from Page 1

"A lot of our programs have been replicated in other states and countries," Pattillo said. "Hopefully, in the next couple years, we'll have deep-sea diving and computer coding in Mexico."

"Unfortunately we have about 2,500 vacancies," Pattillo said referring to CTE training slots.

Pattillo says the training goes beyond teaching job skills.

"Until you start feeling better about yourself, you won't do better," Pattillo said. "The training is important, but it's also the work ethic."

Pattillo says that getting men and women to work in a cohesive environment improves their interpersonal skills and

emotional intelligence and makes reentry into the community smoother.

Pattillo continued, "We have a pretty strong transition program on the outside."

While employed by CALPIA, men and women have the opportunity to learn about companies that hire ex-felons. In addition, they receive access to transitional housing as well as assistance receiving copies of their birth certificate, driver's license and social security card.

Inmates who are employed by CALPIA and return to the community record recidivism rates 26 to 32 percent lower than the state's general population return-to-prison rates. Those who participate in the CTE program have a recidivism rate as low as 7 percent.

"7370 has a zero — that's unheard of," Pattillo said

referring to the computer coding program.

Pattillo was asked if he were in charge of California's prisons, where would he make reforms.

"There's not much you can do as secretary except follow what is in existing law. However, if I were Governor, I wouldn't need a wand to do the following:

"First, transfer firefighting authority from CDCR inmates to the California Conservation Corp (CCC) Members and bring those CDCR inmates in fire camps back to fill the 2,500 vacancies in CALPIA which has a lower recidivism rate than camps because we are teaching skills like coding and computer assisted design and construction that can actually get jobs. There are 50,000 at risk kids in California 18-25 that can be in the CCC, trained as fire-

fighters and actually get those jobs. Millions would be also saved because you don't have to pay inmate guarding costs. It's nearly \$50k cheaper per firefighter to use conservation corps members. Those excess correctional officers in camp can be used to fill institutional officer vacancies.

"Second, segregate mental health treatment in CDCR from the custody mission and use those savings to expand the department of State Hospitals Mental Health Forensic (Criminal) Mission. Too many people are coming to prison because of existing underlying mental health conditions that are just exacerbated in custody. We need to expand funding in mental health diversion courts.

"Finally, commute the sentence of those on death row to life without the possibility of parole. That is far worse



Photo courtesy of Michelle Kane

Chuck Pattillo speaking with former Gov. Jerry Brown

punishment than death. There would be significant savings to CDCR and the Courts by dismantling *Condemned Row*. The possibility that we could ever execute someone who might be innocent is a risk too great.

Pattillo, a self-described "family first" man, said he wants to "hang out with my kids (and) go to less meetings" before getting back to connecting offenders to innovative job skills they could take to the streets.

Wake Forest University gains experience with Prison Letter Project

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Wake Forest University law students are providing North Carolina prisoners legal help through its Prison Letter Project and gaining experience in the process.

The letter program is a part of the school's Pro Bono Project. The school's law library is the only publicly accessible law library between the state capitol and the Tennessee border.

"We're not allowed to give them legal advice and give an opinion," Suzanne Cavanaugh, Prison Letter

Project coordinator, told *San Quentin News*. "But I can bring the horse water and hope that it drinks—and say 'Here it is: if you were sentenced in November and this became effective in August, you can do the math.'"

A lot of the prisoners find out about the project mostly through word of mouth, noted Cavanaugh. Most of the letters ask for up-to-date legal information to deal with their court cases.

"I think it's a miracle that these prisoners are resourceful enough. A lot of the letters they send us have a correct citation in them, and they say, please

send me this case," Cavanaugh said. "I wonder how they even get that. I think that's amazing."

Most of the letters come from male prisoners but not females and Cavanaugh wonders why. They also receive letters from people housed in the Cherokee reservation prison system.

"Doing these letters has a dual purpose: we are helping inmates, but it's also honing our research skills," Cavanaugh said. "It's a great way to look at something and say, 'Gee I've never heard of this, and I'm not sure where to start.' It forces you to go

through [the] motions of how to look up something."

The students field mail where prisoners are trying to figure out the statute of limitations, how to delve into elements of a crime, what does the state have to prove and what kind of evidence is dismissible.

"The problems prisoners are asking us to research are not that different from problems as an attorney in the criminal justice system," Cavanaugh said. "A lot of times it feels like we're sending back bad news, like: it doesn't seem like this was an error, or no, this isn't a reversible error."

Cavanaugh is still upbeat

about the work that they do. Even when they receive letters without clear questions, students figure it out and get an idea of what kinds of citations the prisoners might want.

They even deal with mail where prisoners don't ask for anything.

"Some people just want to be heard; they just want to tell their story," Cavanaugh said. "We write back and say we're really sorry you're going through this, let us know if there's research we can do."

The project was started by Professor Liz Johnson in 2013 to ensure that prisoners had the correct information they

need to present to the courts. The project has grown to teach law students to have a life-long commitment to do pro bono work.

Cavanaugh would like to know if what they are doing is helping, because the students don't see the end results. But the project does seek to reach more North Carolina prisoners.

"There's a lot of people out there that don't know that we exist and could be reaching out to us," Cavanaugh said. "We are just a wealth of resources, and we're law students who just want to get out there and help."

UC Davis launches social media campaign to combat ex-prisoner perceptions

A group of formerly incarcerated university students is launching a social media campaign designed to combat society's negative perceptions of ex-prisoners.

The University of California at Davis students call their campaign "We Are All Students" (WAAS). The aim is to help others to respect former inmates for who they are as people.

"We are producing a year-long social media campaign that conveys the social situations and experiences of people who attend higher education in the shadow of incarceration," Zach Psick told the *San Quentin News*. Psick is formerly incarcerated and is the project's student campaign director.

The digital campaign will consist of between 100 and 150 posts on social media

platforms such as Instagram. Each post will portray a student whose life was impacted by incarceration or the legal system. The digital posts will include high-resolution photographs of about a dozen people.

"The photos will illuminate their personalities and humanity by conveying their everyday experiences as students," Psick said. "Protecting their identities will de-individualize their experiences and allow them to express themselves without jeopardizing their pursuit of better lives."

Psick said he was convicted of a crime 12 years ago, but the stigma around his incarceration remains.

"I have been surprised by the emergence of groups representing formerly incarcerated scholars at all levels

of academia," said Psick. "I thought people like me were rarer."

Psick says that his probation officer wanted him to go to prison, not college. "He told me that repeatedly," Psick said. "It was because a risk assessment predicted I would reoffend. Now I'm in my fifth year of graduate school."

His accomplishments include a master's degree in sociology, a B.A. in Communication Studies, and a certificate in Addiction Studies/Public Health. He has published reports on aging in prison and aging reentry populations in the *International Journal of Prisoner Health* and the *American Society of Criminology*, Philadelphia.

"I had what they called a learning disorder," Psick said. "My probation officer

was surprised by my academic success. Students, professors, and administrators are often surprised, too."

These are the types of stories the digital campaign aims to highlight. The digital media content will be available free of charge.

"WAAS aims to support coalition - building between groups representing the interests of currently and formerly incarcerated people like those in Beyond The Stats—a collective of formerly incarcerated students enrolled at U.C. Davis—and the *San Quentin News* by producing and spreading information," Psick added.

The WAAS campaign is also developing brochures, fliers and posters to distribute at probation and parole offices and community colleges. The printed material will contain



Instagram posts from weareallstudents_draft

information that people with felony charges need to know about college.

Psick hopes that this



information will help future classes of formerly incarcerated college freshmen.

—Marcus Henderson

KING

Continued from Page 1

Shields, who was there to present their paper in person Nov. 11, told *San Quentin News*: "The audience was intensely silent during the introduction, as if they were hanging off each word. It was a hard opening act to follow."

King and Shields wrote in their *Challenging Canons: Collaborating to Reimagine Knowledge Sharing in Higher Education in Prison*.

• [P]risons take people who have grown up in marginalized neighborhoods that lack certain opportunities, and disenfranchise them even further through the explicit lack of rights for incarcerated people. The classroom itself carries the academic institution's own history of marginalization.

• [W]e need to question the replication of power from traditional educational institutions and seek to overturn some of these practices by encouraging dialogue and democratic approaches in the classroom and curriculum.

They were inspired to write about these ideas when King

and other students took great offense to the positive Klu Klux Klan imagery depicted in D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*. The 1915 film was touted for its cinematic significance and historical relevance in PUP's Intro to Film class. Shields was the teaching assistant.

"When we talked about not wanting to see it, not wanting to be exposed to it, the teacher said, 'This film is important - part of canon,'" King commented in an interview. "I'd say the offensiveness of that movie is not debatable. There is no one who would say it's not offensive."

Challenging Canons argues that students need to feel included in the curriculum taught to them, rather than the traditional power dynamic where a teacher teaches and students simply listen. Particularly in a prison setting, incarcerated students get far more out of the educational process when they are proactively engaged.

Shields listened to the students' grievances and empathized with their situation. She was already familiar with King through his role as PUP clerk, but

the classroom environment provided further insight.

"We had a lot of discussions about film, and a lot of what brought us together to do this paper were discussions from that class," said Shields.

"It was really great working with James," she continued. "I feel I always came in with a million half-formed ideas and questions, and James is a calm sage who had the ability to listen to everything and then deliver a brilliant idea in a sentence or two."

King and Shields researched their topic separately, meeting four or five times over a two-month period to work together. After submitting an abstract for the conference, their paper was awarded a slot on the schedule.

"James likes to paint things really starkly, but it makes for elegant writing," said PUP's academic program director, Amy Jamgochian. "Amber is the kindest person in the whole world."

"These collaborative pairings are great."

Jamgochian attended the Indiana conference to present her own paper, "Overfamiliarity" and "College in Prison."

"This conference was very

different," she said. "People care more - because lives are at stake."

Without King in Indianapolis alongside her, Shields said, "It definitely felt like half the paper was missing."

"For me, the biggest moment was when an audience member came up afterwards and said that our paper made her want to take a new approach to examining the curriculum she and other teachers use in their program."

Another PUP program director, Neil Terpkosh, said, "It was so exciting to see James' face in this room in Indiana. It's tremendously important for the voices of incarcerated folks to be at the center of these discussions."

"You guys know the system best, know the solutions to the system best."

The four-day conference featured over 70 different panel discussions, presentations, and exhibits throughout the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel, as well as scheduled lunch and dinner events for networking.

"This conference re-emphasized for me how important it is to create a safe space to question the status quo and bring different voices together

to dream up new ways of doing things," Shields said.

"I really became aware of all the barriers there are for programs like this existing, and the many ways we have to be innovative about overcoming those barriers," said Terpkosh.

Because race factors so heavily into mass incarceration and prison education, Jamgochian and Terpkosh commented on the underlying theme of King and Shields' paper - the juxtaposition of White educators amongst so many non-White students.

"I don't know. Am I here because of White guilt?" Jamgochian openly wondered. "Certainly, there's that feeling that 'I'm not a racist, so I have to do something super not racist.'"

"I'm sure a lot of us are trying to earn our 'White liberal credentials.'"

"Why should White guys with Ph.D.s have all the control?" asked Terpkosh. "Higher education shouldn't exclusively include White men, White philosophy."

"White guilt doesn't necessarily motivate me to do what I do," he continued. "I believe in equity."

"Equity means everybody having access to everything they need - the resources to lead an empowered life, a life with choices."

"Our field is on the frontlines trying to address inequality with race and ethics," said Jamgochian. "It's not easy, but it's a good mission to have."

"How do we define inclusivity? It's really difficult in a nation with deep historical inequalities and trauma."

"I remembered that growing up my dad had volunteered at San Quentin," shared Shields. "When I first reached out for more information, little did I know what an amazing place of learning I would find."

"When I arrived at San Quentin, there was a TED Talk event here," King recalled. "That was one of my first indications that we could write or say things to people outside of prison."

Since then, King has become a published essayist, an online blogger for *restorecal.org*, and contributes to multiple criminal justice reform organizations.

He emphasized that he considers his proudest moment to be seeing PUP's academic conference become a reality at San Quentin in October. King was a driving force behind the event's planning and organizing, in addition to being a prominent participant.

"Higher education, when done right, helps people learn the tools to critically assess their environment and learn about themselves in the process," King explains of his journey. "I've gained a lot from higher education in prison. I've learned that I love learning."

"Before that, I was working through trauma, and I didn't have enough space - mentally or emotionally - to know what I liked or disliked."

King wants to make one thing clear: "Any student could've done all this. These opportunities are there for everyone."

"We need more people who don't consider themselves first and foremost inmates, but instead scholars, students, writers, and so forth."

Shields envisions King doing speaking tours in the future. "James is a very eloquent writer and critical thinker, and at the same time is an engaging speaker - so it would be great to see him combine these talents in public speaking."

What would King like to be doing in five years? "Hopefully, contributing to my community in some way."



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Teacher Amber Shields speaking to a PUP student at the 2018 PUP Academic Conference



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

James King speaking with a teacher at the 2018 PUP graduation

Starting off 2019's resolution by being their best self

I am motivated when people believe in me. I used to do things to please others

EDITORIAL

By Jesse Vasquez
Editor in Chief

Every year starts with so much promise. During the first quarter of the year, everyone believes in their full potential, especially me.

New Year's resolutions are a person's desire to be different — better.

Everyone starts the New Year with at least one resolution. Some want to lose weight, others want to exercise more, some want to spend less and others want to

make more.

I have noticed that most resolutions that involve weight control and exercise help boost gym memberships but not necessarily gym attendance and participation.

I have discovered that although the desire for improvement is present, the will power to see it through can wane depending on the day, mood, and weather.

New Year's resolutions are not the only thing that fluctuates, criminal justice reform ebbs toward leniency or floods toward severity depending on what is 'politically correct' and 'socially

acceptable.'

Resolutions can be misconstrued as lasting improvement instead of the beginning of a process toward improvement. Similarly, justice-system reform is mistakenly seen as a solution without actually dealing with the systemic issues that led to the conditions in the first place.

New Year's gym membership offers and criminal justice reform efforts are opportunities that can promote personal initiative, accountability, and responsibility but they are no guarantee of success.

Individuals are the only

ones that can guarantee their own success. They have control over whether or not something benefits them, and to what extent.

However, resolutions and reform efforts pave the way because they embody our hope in our capacity to change and improve.

I believe that we are all incentivized to perform better, and be better, when others believe in us.

I am motivated when people believe in me. I used to do things to please others.

In fact, I made a lot of bad choices because at the time I felt it was what I needed to do to belong.

However, eventually I met

people who believed in me even when I did not recognize my own potential; their encouragement paved the way for me.

I discovered that small incentives empowered me because I felt validated and that I mattered in spite of my circumstances.

I made small behavioral changes like waking up earlier so I could read more or going to bed later so I could write one more letter.

Through those small changes, I reaped significant benefits such as better reading comprehension and enriching correspondences with family and friends.

No one could have told

me that those extra hours of reading and writing were preparing me for the role I have now for the *San Quentin News*.

Nevertheless, none of this would have been a reality without the support of many people and the reforms that planted a seed of hope and the possibility of social redemption.

I am convinced that New Year's resolutions and justice reform will benefit those that position themselves for success by surrounding themselves with people who believe they can be better, and do better not just for the first quarter of the year but for life.

Tennessee prisoner makes ultimate decision in how he wants to die

By Richard B. Evans
Journalism Guild Writer

Death by lethal injection or death by electrocution was, for Edmund George Zagorski, the last major life decision he would make.

He was 63 years old when he was executed Nov. 1 by electric chair for the murder of John Dotson and Jimmy Porter over a sale of 100 pounds of marijuana in 1983.

Zagorski shot, stabbed and robbed Dotson and Porter, then stole their truck. The two men died at the scene.

Zagorski chose electrocution because he knew experts were speaking out against lethal injection, believing it caused cruel suffering prior to death.

He wanted to avoid what medical experts were call-

ing "torture" of the condemned, as reported in the *Nashville Tennessean*.

He was part of a group of 32 Death Row offenders who sued the state of Tennessee over its use of lethal injection. The court decided against them in a 4-1 ruling.

They cited the pain-filled, torturous lethal injection death experience of Billy Ray Irick, as characterized by doctors who reviewed his Aug. 9, 2018 execution. With Irick's death, experts said the drug midazolam did not render him unconscious before the other drugs began shutting his body down, as was intended.

The doctor who reviewed Irick's death said the execution caused great pain and feelings of "...drowning and burning alive." U.S. Supreme Court Justice Soto-

mayor said, "Capital prisoners ... are entitled to humane deaths. The longer we stand silent amid growing evidence of inhumanity in execution methods like Tennessee's, the longer we extend our own complicity in state sponsored brutality."

Zagorski was the 134th person the state of Tennessee put to death since 1916, the second execution in Tennessee in 2018 and the first electrocution in that state since 2007.

His last words were, "First of all I want to make it very clear I have no hard feelings... Let's rock."

Zagorski spent 34 years on Death Row.

John Dotson's widow, Marsha Dotson, said, "I've come to realize that it's not my place to condemn somebody, to let them die."

Brown signed two laws giving the public more access to police records

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

In 2017, police officers shot and killed 172 people in California. The police didn't have to make public any records that could help distinguish between self-defense and murder. Recently Gov. Jerry Brown signed two laws that give the public increased access to police records.

"Californians have a right to know when officers are dishonest, use deadly force," said Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) to the *Courthouse News Service*.

Skinner introduced the first law under Senate Bill 1421 requiring internal investigation records of police officers, who may have committed misconduct in deadly

force cases, falsified evidence or sexually assaulted someone while on duty, to be made available for public inspection.

"Sunlight is the best disinfectant," said Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo) in the *Courthouse* article. Cunningham added that he supported the bill because it contained a clause that halts the release of misconduct records while an investigation is pending.

The second law requires law enforcement agencies to share audio or video footage of police in use-of-force incidents within 45 days unless doing so would interfere with an ongoing investigation. The California News Publishers Association proposed the bill. Assemblyman Phil Ting

(D-San Francisco) introduced Assembly Bill 748, which passed by a 41-23 vote before becoming law.

"This is a good government measure that provides greater insight into [use-of-force incidents]," Ting said prior to the passage of the bill in the *Courthouse* article. "The bill doesn't force [law enforcement] to release videos during investigations."

Now the public and press will have greater access to police body-camera and dash-cam footage in deadly force cases.

The bills will "help address the current crisis in policing," Peter Bibring, director of policing practices for the American Civil Liberties Union of California, said in a *CBS SF Bay Area* article.

RJ forum discusses the topic of intellectual disabilities and healing

Mrs. Leigh Ann Davis flew in from Texas to speak at a Restorative Justice (RJ) symposium at San Quentin on the topic of supporting people with intellectual disabilities. She also stressed the importance of overcoming shame and speaking out against abuse as paths to healing.

"Shame is a huge issue we are not dealing with," Davis said. "Shame is the prison and we have to find our way out."

Davis is the director of criminal justice initiatives for The ARC, an organization that works to help people with

disabilities. The ARC has 630 chapters nationwide.

The symposium took place at the Catholic Chapel on Dec. 1. Incarcerated person Leny Beyette emceed the San Quentin Restorative Justice Interfaith Roundtable event. He introduced Davis to a crowd of 40 community members and 80 incarcerated men.

Davis said she is passionate about teaching people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to speak out against their abusers. She noted that she had difficulty speaking out against her own

past abuse because of shame.

Dressed in a red sweater and with her blonde hair tied in a ponytail, this Christian woman with a Master of Science Degree in social work told the audience her stepfather had molested her from the ages of 5 to 10. "I didn't really tell anyone, because of the shame, until I was 13," Davis said. "I went to church camp and I started believing that I do have value, but I still find myself in that prison, like 'Who are you to get up and talk to people?' and that all came from that trauma."

Davis never sought her stepfather's arrest.

"For me, justice isn't about someone being in a building; it's about someone getting healed," Davis said. "If him wearing (prison) blue meant coming here and doing restorative justice, then I would want him to go to prison. But most prisons aren't (as rehabilitation oriented as) San Quentin."

Davis said she has taken steps to make sure her stepfather isn't molesting others.

Her talk transitioned then to what she described as an invisible population: people with intellectual disabilities (ID).

At age 24, Davis started helping people with intellectual disabilities. People with ID have an IQ under 75. Their mental health issues can't be healed with medicine and they lack the ability to take care of themselves. ID can come from "in vitro" blood poisoning or fetal alcohol syndrome, for example.

One in six men experience sexual assaults, according to Davis, and those with mental health issues are even more likely to be victims of such violence.

Her talk resonated with several incarcerated men who said their daughters have been molested.

"She (Davis) impacted me with her level of honesty and sincerity when talking about a subject people usually steer away from," Kerry

Rudd said. "It was helpful. With my daughter, she's been going through a lot, but today helped me have a better understanding."

Lloyd Payne, stepfather of a 7-year-old girl who was molested, asked about what he could do to support her.

"With my daughter, she's been going through a lot, but today helped me have a better understanding"

"Be there for her to have conversations if she has questions," Davis said. "Be a consistent male role model and make sure she gets therapy. Emotionally healthy as you are, you can pass that on to her and if she needs to cry, she can do that with you."

RJ facilitator Darnell "Moe" Washington discussed connection. "We have a problem in America and the problem is disconnection," he said. "We are all connected. When you see something happening in another community and think that it has nothing to do with you, it does. Look at the opioid crisis, mass shootings. If this is affecting all of us, why ain't we all fighting this

as one?"

Part of the symposium involved both incarcerated people and community members sitting in circles to discuss shame and support for disabled people. These dialogues were confidential but whatever happened in the nine different circles left an impression on the guests.

"This is my first time coming to anything like this," said Dr. Kristian, a psychologist who also sponsors a Criminal Gang Anonymous program at California Health Care Facility, Stockton. "Today has blown me away. The men asked me to get involved with RJ to see if we can bring it to my facility. I'm excited to go back to work on Monday and say this is what happened on Saturday."

Karen Newton, who works at a non-public school with kids who have mental health issues, said, "I work with kids involved in gangs, involved in shootings; I've been punched in the face. But it's not who they are; it's what's happened to them. I'm told we don't want them in prison because they'll end up like the people in prison. I want them to be like you—you, but just not in here."

Davis said, "I feel like you guys have what it takes and we need this out in the free world where we struggle to have these types of conversations."

—Rahsaan Thomas
—Al King contributed to this story

Letters to the Editor

After my last letter to the editor, We the OGs, I've received numerous thanks and praises from my fellow Gees.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank them for the countless times we've talked at the roundtable. Amongst them are two older brothers who have my respect, Gee and Gator. They've shed light and have enlighten me about many things before my time.

People use the word OG but don't know it's real meaning. Well, it's most definitely not just an older man. It doesn't come from living to an old age.

Gees earn that title from the respect that comes from who he is and what he stands for. Gees possess a sixth sense for tension and danger. He has insight of situations before they happen. He's been through life's adversities and still stands strong. He's one who could make the greatest misunderstandings be understood. He's a light that never goes out. He's noticed by his talk, walk and his everyday actions. He's loved by many and hated by few.

The OGs I see today are still intact. They're clean, free of substance abuse—a game of chess or two keeps them stress free.

The reason OGs spoke about this notion of coming together as one provides the rare opportunity for everyone to come in a circle with ways and ideals that will keep the young men in today's society from self-destruction.

The OGs, like Gee and Gator, are most respected because they walk the walk that they talk. So, the next time an OG strolling your way, say, "What's up?" and see what he has to say.

Yours truly,

Eddie Turner aka ET



Kid CAT Chairman Si Dang's 2019 youth address

Kid CAT Speaks!

By Si Dang
Contributing Writer

For many of us who are incarcerated, the ultimate dream is freedom. The question of whether we will achieve that dream, however, often lies in our pursuit of it.

My name is Si Dang, and I am the new chairman of Kid CAT. Over the last 22 years, I have pursued my freedom in a variety of ways, many of them dysfunctional and leading me right back to where I started: without freedom and with no meaningful change in who I was.

It was not until six years ago that I finally tapped into my courage and begin facing my personal issues, which ultimately lead me on the road towards my pursuit of freedom and the change I was after.

It is now my purpose as the new leader of Kid CAT to bring that change and pursuit of freedom to all of our members and the youth, which we represent.

It is my hope that I might serve Kid CAT with a spirit of accountability and change that inspires each of us to find the courage to not only pursue our most important



Kid CAT members

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

dreams, but achieve them.

In fact, it is with this spirit in mind that I would like to thank our out-going chairman, Charlie Spence, for his many years of service, leadership, and mentorship to our organization and members.

It is under Charlie's guidance that our organization has thrived and Kid CAT successfully achieved many of its goals and objectives in 2018.

For example, in 2018, Kid CAT officially implemented the Power Source curriculum in its Youth Offender

Program (YOP) "BE-IT." At the same time our First-Step Childhood Development curriculum graduated over 40 individuals and has now entered into a new cycle with new participants.

We also helped raised over \$15,000 for Project Avary, and raised close to a \$1,000 in support of The Beat Within program through our Food-sale.

Additionally, in October we hosted our annual banquet to raise awareness of the "forgotten" voices of youth, highlighting youth violence

and the power of restorative justice to heal.

Both inside and outside guests shared their personal stories while representatives from the Huckleberry House, Project Avary, *The Beat Within* and long-time Kid CAT volunteer, Bev Shelby, spoke about the importance of advocacy and volunteerism within our communities and institutions.

In 2018, five Kid CAT members who served life sentences paroled, two of which were commuted by the Governor. They are all now being productive members of their communities.

Additionally, this past Thanksgiving, two more of our Kid CAT members had their life sentences commuted by the Governor, bringing the total to four commutations.

With the departure of our members, we invited five new faces into Kid CAT all of who are (YOP) inmates. All of who have shown tremendous

potential and willingness to carry on Kid CAT's mission of creating awareness and community service.

Going into 2019, we are excited to get to work. Some of our goals include expanding our charity work with the Huckleberry House, Avary Project and *The Beat Within*.

With our partners, we hope to bring greater awareness to the issues of homelessness, youth with incarcerated parents, and the overall challenges that youth offenders face in the juvenile justice system.

Additionally, it is our organization's goal to expand the accessibility of Kid CAT Speaks page in the *San Quentin News* as a platform for more youth offenders to share their voices and send messages of hope and gratitude.

We also plan to increase accessibility of our Childhood Development curriculum to more incarcerated individuals in other prisons.

Since making our Childhood Development curriculum available, three of our paroled Kid CAT members hosted an orientation of the curriculum at Lancaster State Prison. We also held a joint training with volunteers from Tracy State Prison who will be starting a Kid CAT curriculum there.

It is also our goal to advocate for provisions that would allow youth offenders to earn milestone and RAC credits toward their youth offender date as opposed to their minimum eligible parole date (MEPD).

Throughout the new year, our organization will be working toward becoming more transparent in our individual and collective efforts to uphold the integrity of our goals and vision.

It is our objective to begin to hold each other more accountable for our actions while administering higher standards of professionalism within the organization.

It is our hope that transparency and accountability will translate into a stronger group and individual commitment in supporting and advocating for all youth offenders.

In closing, this year, Kid CAT would like to inspire everyone to pursue their dreams and find the courage to face the new challenges that may stand in their way. There is nothing that one cannot achieve without hard work.

We encourage all of you to take advantage of new opportunities and work to create meaningful change in your lives and, in the process, make your dreams a reality.

"All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them." -Walt Disney

Youths held in juvenile detention on the decline in US

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

The number of youths held in juvenile detention is declining in the United States. The total number of youths in confinement declined 58 percent over the period of 2000 to 2016, while the number of facilities holding youths in custody dropped 42 percent in the same time period, according to "Juvenile Residential Facility Census Databook," a 2018 report from the U.S. Department of Justice.

"The decline comes in large part because of significant reduction in the number of youth in custody," reports Dana Shoenberg and Erinn Broadus of the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The decline is partly due to

a growing body of evidence that demonstrates that confinement can be more harmful and doesn't effectively address the issue of recidivism, according to the Pew.

Instead, evidence has shown that other options, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, are more effective at reforming and reducing recidivism, the Pew reported.

In 2016 in Kansas, policymakers passed Senate Bill (SB) 367, a measure that prohibits the use of group homes for most youth in the juvenile justice system. SB 367 allowed the state to shift millions of dollars annually to community-based services for keeping youths in their homes instead, according to Pew.

Other states like South Da-

kota echoed this focus, passing SB 73 to divert resources to community-based programs and closing its only remaining juvenile facility in 2016. Now, those accused of low-level offenses no longer end up in the juvenile justice system, while youths deemed the greatest threat to public safety can be placed in "out-of-home" facilities.

These reforms are also driven by falling crime and reductions in residential placement, Pew reports. The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators released a report detailing guidelines for how to close facilities responsibly, emphasizing meeting the needs of youths, families and staff by reinvesting resources and improving care.

Dear Kid CAT

Today I write to you about your story on Antoine Brown. His story shows that redemption is real. It was informative to learn about his disciplinary history and subsequent rehabilitative efforts. People benefit from these stories because sometimes they give up when they get a rule infraction, so people need to see that you can come back from mistakes.

This story also helps our families remain hopeful that we may be home someday. Yes all our stories are different, but our desire for freedom and our families desire for us to be free is the same.

We all appreciate your work and help at San Quentin to enlighten us and society about life behind and beyond the wall.

Sincerely,

Jessie Milo, Corcoran State Prison

Dear Jessie,

Thanks for writing back to us, we are glad that you are drawing inspiration from Antoine's story. It is true that being in prison isn't easy, and that there are a lot of distractions that can cause us to make the wrong decisions and jeopardize our future of being paroled. What Antoine's story teaches us is that, no one is irredeemable. Continue to stay positive and focused.

Kid CAT curriculum now available

Attention Readers: Kid CAT Childhood development curriculum and facilitator manual is now available.

If you are interested in creating a Kid CAT branch/youth offender support group at your institution, please have your sponsor/volunteer or community partnership manager contact Kid CAT Speaks c/o *San Quentin News*, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964 for a copy of our curriculum and facilitator's manual.

The curriculum's objective is to help participants address the root causes of criminal thinking, childhood trauma and violent behavior. It accomplishes this by helping participants explore three phases of their lives:

- Past (childhood to pre-conviction)
 - Present (current incarceration)
 - Future (post-release).
- The 26-week curriculum

is broken into eight modules:

- Masculinity
- Self-identity
- Identifying emotions
- Consequences
- Communication
- Environmental influences
- Compassion
- Empathy and forgiveness

A typical session consists of written assignments, self-exploration, lectures and group discussion.



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

What have you taken for granted? Was it your freedom? Is it your mom/dad? We want you to tell us how you assumed everything was going to be fine, and then out of nowhere you lost "it," blew "it" away, all because you took "it" for granted.

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

SQ Shakespeare troupe performs skits about trauma and healing

By Wayne Boatwright
Staff Writer

Nine original skits put modern personal trauma and healing on full display this past October.

The audience discovers how Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* had inspired a troupe of actors to present original works of how trauma is passed down across generations until a choice is made to heal. The troupe used intimate personal skits to express complex emotions arising from bullying, death, jealousy, revenge, betrayal, cancer, to loss of a parent.

Music and laughter led by Oran "Artwork" Hutson were used to loosen up the crowd of more than a hundred. With interlude and supporting music by Quentin Blue (Lee Atkins, Mark Kinney, Dwight Krizman, Chris Koppe, Chris Thomas, Rich Morris) and additional interlude by Eric "Maserati-E" Abercrombie and Gino Sevacos.

Audience Q & A

Q – How did the Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* inspire you?

A – My estranged relationship with my brother. He passed, and the whole play is about brothers that are never together.

A – The power of bullying and loss of a life – to do a show allowed honoring the dead and moving on... Suicide of my friend John.

Q – What really got me was how you incorporated the music – how did you do it?

A – Really lots of hard work. How to mix these two distinct mediums together. Dwight:

A – all expression helps us get through this prison experience. Where is my humanity. The help of outside, telling and supporting our self-expression – of all types. Thank you for coming in!

A – We are a support group for each other and an alternative to other tools for coping like exercise, church, groups, and dope. We really hope that when these tragedies come, we can share our loss with the



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

The cast of the SQ's Shakespeare Parallel Play

community of artists.

Q – "You guys are the cure for pain" – You have used performance to show us all the things we have experienced. "Life is poetry."

A – Take with you what empathy really is. Things like race, age and gender no longer matter. Empathy will allow you to both understand others and yourself.

Q – What touched me so much was the vulnerability shown – especially in an environment where others don't have it.

A – You want to talk about vulnerable, try to imagine coming from a Level 4 yard and having to put on a dress! The guys had fun, but I realize "this is what women go through" wow – this program has transformed me."

A – Key is to open up and there is a lot of healing in this group, each of other has a way of healing and the different forms of expression we all have.

A – We have to be vulnerable, to be able to change. If

not able to hear what is broken, how can you fix it.

We recycle cans and bottles, why can't we recycle people?

Q – I hope you guys get how you touched us from tears to laughter in an instant. Thank you for letting us in.

So when are you musicians going to put the album out?

Lesley Currier of Marin Shakespeare Company took a moment to explain, "There are now arts programs in all the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facilities, including Marin Shakespeare in many prisons."

Original Skits

In **STAND TOGETHER** by Raygeta, the parody of violence in a classroom and the jolt of a friend's suicide - bullied for his differences. How to mourn such a loss, triggered by simple things to more violence calling for revenge and the cycle continues.

MIND YO BIZ by Darwin "Tall" Billingsley dealt with

how to express love, jealously, including great Hong Kong-styled martial arts, and finding a way to admit, that the attacker is the one that needs help.

HEAL TO CHANGE TO SAVE by Ronell "Rauch" Draper Presented as a mix the spoken word with dance and music. As read by Surya Keating the repetition of "Heal the world; To change the world; In order to save the world."

UNTIL THEN by Antwan "Banks" Williams was a conversation, facing a wall and asking, "Do you see me?" "In April, my brother passed away. Does my pain want you to be closer? Your prospective will change with mine – too busy staring at what behind me or ahead of me..."

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? By Andrew Wadsworth A conversation in a car about how to take care of a friend, retaliation, the blood debt cycle of violence while keeping of

another promise to be a success. How to say goodbye at a father's funeral. The power of a father's love reflected in a son's farewell.

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL by Maurice "Reese" Reed was a meditation of Shakespearean style on how beautiful is Black. The use of movement to demonstrate the words made physically manifest.

FREEDOM: DISCOVERING WHO WE ARE OR ARE SUPPOSED TO BE by Markelle "The Gazelle" Taylor with musical backup by Gino Sevacos on how a boy took a stepfather's bitter lesson on learning to read and created the defense of lying to survive. Translated into a man's lesson of "Free in the mind. Free in the heart and no one can take that away from me."

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY by Richie Morris earned the most heart-warming applause on the defensive skill of being invisible. How to learn to be seen by going

all the way back into one's past – to understand our path to crime and how to return to the community.

"I am no longer a ghost in my own life."

The central path of music with a wide range of string instruments where music and word again mixed into a powerful magic of song.

EVERYBODY NEEDS LOVE by Derry "Brotha Dee" Brown on the fear of cancer and how we men support each other through such times. The rhythms of prison life, the waiting, escort, group sign-in, etc. and how to deal with the consequences of aging in prison – God is called upon by the group.

As a finale, the cast had the audience join in sing **EVERYBODY NEEDS LOVE**.

Marin Shakespeare Company began its program in San Quentin in 2003 and in San Quentin's H-Unit dormitory yard in 2018. The program now has expanded to 11 prisons. Videos are hosted on www.marinshakespeare.org.



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Marin Shakespeare's Lesley Currier

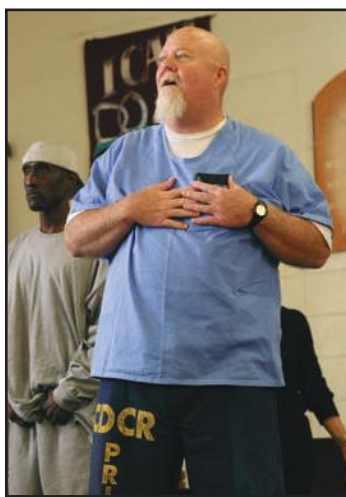


Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Actor Greg Jordan



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Shakespeare actress Mary-Ann



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

People in the audience participating in a piece

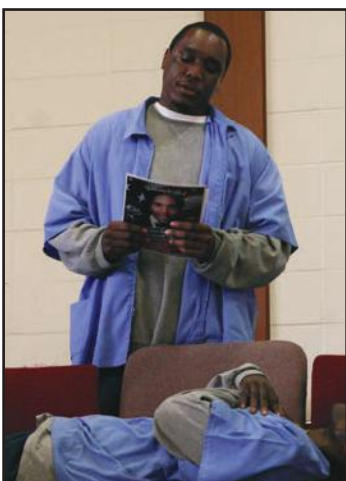


Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Andrew Wadsworth in "What am I Supposed to do?"



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Director Surya Keating talking to the crowd



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Oran "Artwork" Hutson warming up the crowd with his comedy



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Wayne Villafranco, Ben Tobin, Phillippe Kelly, Maurice Reed and Antwan "Banks" Williams showing the movement of trauma of Ronell Draper's "Heal to Change to Save"

Veterans Healing Veterans organizes Shakespeare plays

By Wayne Boatwright
Staff Writer

A group of San Quentin veterans joined with Shakespearean actors on Nov. 29 to portray the experience of service and sacrifice.

A banner greeted the audience VETERANS HEALING VETERANS FROM THE INSIDE OUT (VHV-FTIO), a group with a mission to represent the imprint each generation of veterans leaves on the next. Lesley Currier directed the performance, a joint enterprise between VHV and the Marin Shakespeare Company (MSC).

“Taking that leap of faith with us and try something new,” said Currier to the expectant audience.

The theme of “Patriotism and Politics” had the mixed cast performing emotional scenes of injury to taking of life with choreography to demonstrate loyalty, liberty, service and sacrifice.

VHV seeks to provide vets the opportunities to practice self-expression. In combination with MSC, these men wrote their own autobiographical skits.

Often the skits required veterans to recreate the most traumatic moments in their lives.

There was no lighting apart from the standard fluorescent tubes overhead, the only stage props were extra chairs, a podium, and the water fountain used to serve as a drum.

The plain environment matched the stark monologues used to reveal the truths experienced by veterans seeking to heal veterans in the present.

The veterans shared their stories with re-enactments of the full military life from recruitment, training, deployment, combat, return and retirement.

“Forged in the crucible of training,” said the narrator to set up various skits dealing with overcoming fears to move toward the sounds of



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Veterans Healing Veterans actors and the audience warming up before the play

chaos. He referred to honest fears of every-day skills like swimming, teamwork, discipline and gunfire.

Marines, Navy, Army and Air force was honored with the common call of WE HAVE EACH OTHERS BACKS.”

The contradictions of what recruiters promise the experiences of military life were shared with skits over generations of military service.

Promises don't live up to the PR...

When I joined the military...

WE ALL GOT different things than we expected. ...

Yet, always friendship, maturity, honor.

Music too conveyed the experience of “promises promises”-interspaced with the reality of wounds, physical and psychic.

The dramatic monologues included exploring the complex emotions and experiences of fear, guilt and racism.

The audience listened

intently as they took in the raw manifestation of both patriotism and pain of a skit of a woman's experience of rape and the failure of the service, both female and male officers to investigate or punish the rapist.

Who will hear me....

The whole cast provided the chance to hear real experience of rape and a shared commitment by the whole cast to “protect honor and respect all women always.”

Letters, poetry and prose brought to life service and sacrifices from the Civil War through World War II and express that physical are not the worst wounds.

Concepts that weave throughout the generations, racism, abuse of authority, fear, bravery, patriotism, loyalty, service and sacrifice.

Personal experiences from Rhodesia, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq expressed the full range of difficult to process emotions from personal fear to the guilt of

taking of lives.

George Orwell was quoted “in time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”

The cast shared truths for the living and the dead. A common emotion was hatred for those that profited from war from corporations to illegal drugs. Another was the importance of ritual a to respect the dead.

Of the living, the themes of mental health and racism were faced by the cast.

Racism

No medals of honor to blacks in WWII, until Pres. Bill Clinton in 1997. As with most such medals, of the seven given, six were posthumously awarded.

Mental Health

Vets are 16 percent of the homeless in the U.S.

half of Vets with PTSD are currently getting treatment (often because of the stigma of mental health)

Vets are incarcerated at twice the national average

Vets commit suicide at twice the average

While acknowledging the ideals of our great nation “life liberty and pursuit of happiness,” still America “CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.”

“I am so grateful to these men for giving of themselves and their hearts. Often the performance expresses events the participants may not wish to remember or re-live,” said Currier as she opened the floor to questions from the audience.

Audience Q & A

Q – What was the most difficult regarding the creative process?

A – Being able to share my story, without losing control – more we worked, the easier it became to live it without living it...

A – Very difficult to tell my story, even the ugly things, it was a new way to be courageous to perform.

A – We went through seven versions to prepare these powerful and true stories.

It was a grinder. For us men doing time, we have to take this type of dedication to take these skills out to the world.

A – Military service kind of the opposite from the ‘creative processes of performing.

Q – How can others in prison see this performance?

A – MSC had a full filming crew and will post it on the Marin Shakespeare company website.

A – When we can talk about it, we stop being victims or victimizing others.

Q – Do you encourage joining or avoiding military?

A – Despite what we've been through, we all still love our country.

A – Every citizen has to serve, therefore have a stake. This brings us together as a people. Military not perfect, it's full of people and we bring our flaws with us. Good outweighs the bad.

VHV-FTIO will have groups in the ARC building on the Main Yard.



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Shakespeare Actress Janice and actor Chris Marshall



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Actor David Bennet



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Veterans reenacting a battle



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Marin actress and Paul Stauffer reenacting a war scene



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Bruce Bowman speaking



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Veterans performing a healing ceremony

CIW hosts second annual Suicide Prevention Week

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Women prisoners at the California Institution for Women (CIW) promoted awareness of suicide at the prison's second annual Suicide Prevention Week that happened from September

10 to the 14.

The event started with the inmate Suicide Prevention Outreach Committee members distributing posters and program pamphlets to inform the incarcerated women of the upcoming week's events, according to the prison's press release.

"The inmates played games, spoke with community religious organizations, and received information on warning signs," said Rosie Thomas, Public Information Officer for the prison, in an email to *San Quentin News*.

The week event raised \$2,296 to be donated to the

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The women raised the money by paying for the chance to dunk a city official and staff members into a water tank.

Councilman Gary George of Chino City and Associate Director (AD) Amy Miller attended the event's opening

ceremony. California's state Senator Connie Levy was also a guest speaker for the day.

On September 11, CIW's staff and the incarcerated women Honor Guards worked together to honor those who had fallen during 9/11.

The day after AD Miller kicked off the event by being the first to be dunked in the dunk tank. This was followed by many correctional staff of all ranks joining in on the fun, Thomas said.

Women prisoners who are a part of the Prison Authority Industry construction program helped transform different areas of the prison by creating sitting areas.

"The concrete benches circled what the inmates call the tree of hope," Thomas said. "Inmates also volunteered their time to create a garden area with painted

rocks to symbolize hope."

San Quentin held its own Mental Wellness Week that started September 9. The theme was "Hope," and outside volunteers wore black T-shirts with the suicide prevention ribbon design as a symbol of hope.

As suicides are still an issue in California's prisons, some institutions are taking steps to keep their populations informed.

CIW's Senior Psychologist Specialist M. DuMont led the Suicide Prevention Outreach Committee and planned the week's activities that brought awareness to the seriousness of suicide prevention to the incarcerated women, according to the press release.

"By the end of the week, staff and inmates all agreed working together to create awareness in the CIW community was a success," Thomas said in the email.



CIW prisoners and visitors enjoying the day on the yard

Photo courtesy of CIW



CIW prisoner dunking a staff member in water

Photo courtesy of CIW

F.A.C.T.

Continued from Page 1

"I see these successes around me, this life around me, and it makes me more proud of who I am," Washington said, pointing to the commotion around her. "I have lost a lot of family members, but I have finally worked out of that rut of feeling alone, ashamed and depressed.

"This event is a great opportunity for all of us."

Many service providers brought multiple representatives to outreach to the Bay Area's female parolee community. It was the largest effort of its kind for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and a landmark achievement for APU staff.

"The resource service providers were so happy to be part of this life-changing event and want to continue being part of our hope for making a difference in these women's lives," said Sonia Sandoval, event organizer and Parole Service Associate for Northern Region APU. "Some of the ladies I spoke

with expressed they felt positive and empowered to hear all the positive stories and the hope expressed by everyone attending for making change.

"They were thankful for us making these types of events available to them."

Amika Mota, Prison Reentry Director for the Young Women's Freedom Center, said the parole population can be hard to reach, and was thrilled to connect with so many formerly incarcerated women in one place.

"I am grateful to have access to so many women who are powerhouses in our minds," Mota said. "These women are just waiting for that connection and opportunity to transform the experience that they have had. I hope this grows and the power in this room that women have is acknowledged and lifted up."

Mota also has a knack for seizing opportunities. She served nearly six years in California prisons before she paroled in 2015. She was impassioned by the empowerment happening during the F.A.C.T. event, and even brought along her infant daughter to co-manage her vendor table.

"She comes to work with me every day," Mota said with a smile. "She's been to Sacramento in the governor's office advocating, and been in LA where we were sworn into a state advisory board.

"She's just part of the team."

The event included stirring dialogue from Betty McKay, the East Bay District Peer Reentry Navigation Network Navigator and Cecelia Carrillo, Administrative Assistant at the Office of Women's Policy. McKay, also formerly incarcerated, told the women "Today is our day."

"You have to want something so much that you will get out of your own way to get it, and do whatever it takes to achieve it," McKay said. "Here I am. I am still standing and so are you."

DAPO Assistant Deputy Director Brenda Crowding visited the progress in action. She couldn't help but share a special moment with the parolees in attendance.

"Watching all of you in this room I feel love, hope, connection and sisters helping sisters," Crowding said. "You have people sitting in this room who are encouraging

you, who are lifting you up, who are telling you that you can do anything you want if you set your mind to it and put some hard work behind it."

"I am seeing successes throughout this room today."

Dominique Cowling of Community United Against Violence said it was the first time her organization had a chance to outreach to so many parolees, and share information about her team's efforts to transform violence and oppression in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer communities.

"This event is very unique," she said. "What I am really interested in is making sure people know about our services."

The service providers were as diverse as the parolee community.

"We are proud to participate in the SF F.A.C.T. event so that the participants know about the services available to them and have the information they need in order to take care of their sexual and reproductive health," added EB Troast, Senior Education Manager for Planned Parenthood Northern California.

Sandoval thanked Parole

Agent Mark Ebu for sharing words of encouragement with the parolee community. Her F.A.C.T. Team Members also included PA IIs Dina Aguilar, Tonia Wells and Kevin Walker. Crowding's Special Assistant, Roosevelt Whisenant, also offered his support.

The following agencies and community organization were also recognized for their participation and support: A.A. San Francisco County, Acrobat Outsourcing, Aging and Disability Resource Center of San Francisco-Tool Works, Asian American Recovery Services a Program of Health Right 360-Lee Woodward Counseling Center for Women, Asian Neighborhood Design, Bay Area LeadersUp, Bay Area Legal Aid San Francisco, Bayview Hunter Point YMCA, Cameo House-Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice System, Center for Employment Opportunities, Center Point-Oakland Day Reporting Center, City and County of San Francisco-Reentry Adult Probation Department, Community Assessment Services Center, San Francisco Child Support Services, City College of San

Francisco Hospitality and Culinary Arts Program, City College of San Francisco-EOPS-Second Chance Program, Contra Costa County Office of Education Programs, CUAV-Community United Against Violence, Dress for Success San Francisco, First 5 San Francisco, Edgewood Family Resource Center, GEO Reentry-Stockton Day Reporting Center, Glide Foundation-Violence Intervention and Women's Center Programs, Glide Harm Reduction and LEAD Program, Goodwill San Francisco, Health Right 360-STEPS-Day Reporting Center, Health Right 360-ISMIT-Bridges and FOTEP Treasure Island Programs, Jails to Jobs, Job Train, Mental Health Association of San Francisco, MISSSEY, Love Never Fails, Office of Small Business Assistance Center, Office of Victims and Survivor Rights, Planned Parenthood, Prisoner Reentry Network, Safe and Sound, San Francisco Adult Probation-IPO Program, San Francisco Black Infant Health, San Francisco Human Services Agency, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco/Marin Food Bank, Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy, Santa Clara Co. Fathers & Families Collaborative, Saved by Grace San Francisco Bay Area, Self-Help for the Elderly, Sport Time Officials Charter School, Trades Women Inc, Westside Ajani, Wu Yee, Hunters Point Family, San Francisco IMPACT Partners, Young Women's Freedom Center, Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA), MEDA at El Centro Bay View, Mission Hiring Hall, and CDCR's Office of Public and Employee Communications.



Parolees reacting to Betty McKay

Photo by Ike Dodson, CDCR PIO



Speaker Betty McKay

Photo by Ike Dodson, CDCR PIO



DAPO Assistant Deputy Director Brenda Crowding

Photo by Ike Dodson, CDCR PIO

Female prisoners and advocates fight against breast cancer

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The fight against breast cancer found advocates and support from women prisoners and staff at the California Institution for Women (CIW).

The prison raised close to \$2,500 at its 2018 Avon 39 "Making Strides against Breast Cancer" walk. The American Cancer Society (ACS) partnered with Avon 39 for the prison event.

The September 30, event was sponsored by the prison's

"Lockdown for a Cure team" that consisted of the women prisoners and staff.

The women prisoners showed their support by participating in an institutional food sale and walking on the Recreation Field yard.

"CIW reached out to The American Cancer Society and spoke with Susan Heppner," said Rosie Thomas, the prison Public Information Officer. "Heppner was excited to hear the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation was

supportive and assisted CIW with our opening food fundraiser in August 2018."

Heppner spoke with staff and distributed cancer awareness information, added Thomas. The Avon 39 walk consists of walking 39 miles in support of family members and friends that suffer or have died from the disease.

The prison event was more than a walk. The women prisoners had the chance to enjoy the sounds of DJ Richterscale, who volunteered his services. The women also

played a variety of games, said Thomas.

In addition to participating in the walk, ACS donated pink ribbons and handouts to those at the prison to show support for Breast Cancer Awareness month that happens in October.

The pink ribbons were also placed in the prison visiting room and the handouts were distributed throughout the institution for staff, inmates and their visitors to view, said Thomas.

The day before the prison

walk, CIW staff on the "Lockdown for a Cure team" participated in the "Making Strides against Breast Cancer" walk in the city of Rancho Cucamonga.

They were joined by staff from the California Institution for Men (CIM), California Rehabilitation Center and Backgrounds.

"Lieutenant F. Esqueda (CIM) also showed real men wear pink during the walk as he showed support for his wife, a cancer survivor," said Thomas.

The prison cancer event has been in the works since early 2016, when the "Lockdown for a Cure team" was formed.

At the prison walk, during the check presentation, Jimmie Herrick of The American Cancer Society (ACS) thanked CIW for their support and stated with the donation the ACS had reached their \$100,000 goal.

Also in attendance of the prison walk were ACS staff Janessa Larios and Tillie Aker.



Participants dancing to the sounds of DJ Richterscale

Photo courtesy of CIW



Susan Heppner (American Cancer Society)

Photo courtesy of CIW



Bowling on the yard

Photo courtesy of CIW



CIW color guard (Honor Guard) walking on the yard

Photo courtesy of CIW



CIW staff during the walk in Rancho Cucamonga

Photo courtesy of CIW



CIW prisoners and staff presents a check to the National Cancer Society

Photo courtesy of CIW

AROUND THE WORLD



Snippets

Photodegradation is a technical term for color fading.

Octopuses have sharp, beak-like mouths that make eating shellfish.

Silver has the highest level of electrical conductivity of all metals - even higher than copper.

Iodine is an element essential for health and derives from the Greek word meaning purple which refers to the color of the elemental iodine vapor.

Tuatara, the sole remaining beak-headed reptile of the Rhynchocephalia can be found only in New Zealand.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

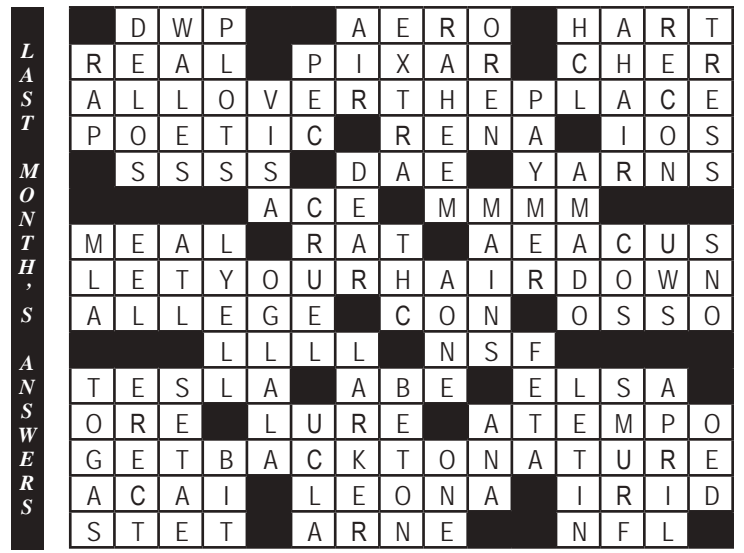
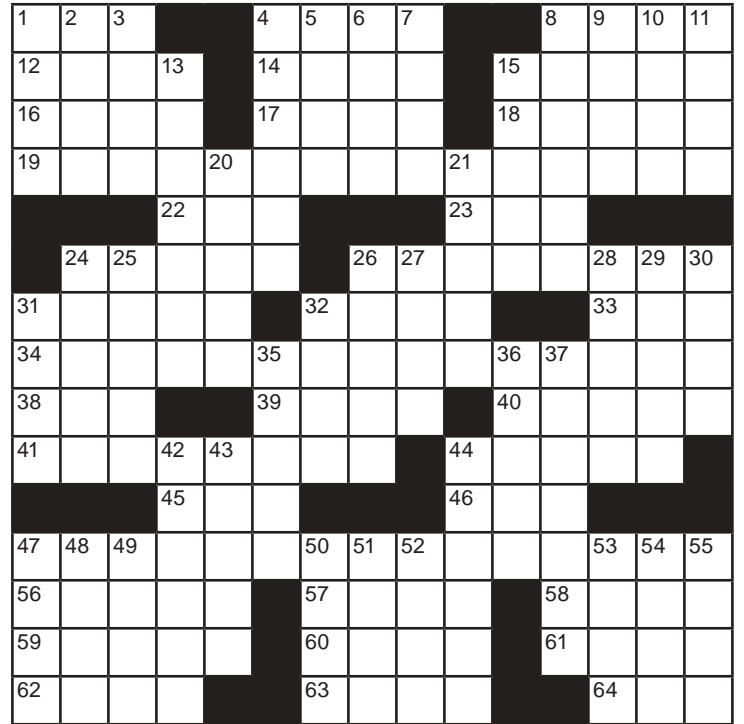
By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Across

1. *Gone with the Wind* movie co.
4. Childish Gambino album
8. Highest mountain on the island of Tasmania
12. Actor Arkin
14. Female friend (Fr)
15. A splinter of wood
16. The "biggest little" city in the world
17. Sheet of glass
18. Sounds
19. "I'm not stupid! I ____!"
22. Type of insurance comp.
23. Computer key
24. A double portrait of ____ Majesties
26. Person mired in self-pity
31. Comedic actor Martin
32. A marijuana cigarette
33. Fin. offering (Abbr.)
34. Go crazy
38. A beer without hops, historically
39. Tony ____
40. Mosquitoes that carry the yellow fever virus
41. Electrician's assistants on a movie set
44. City in SE France
45. Direct
46. Welcoming flowers
47. "Let's start over. Let's go ____"
56. Small arm of a river
57. Family relative
58. Excrete
59. A type of bin
60. Travel
61. Novelist Gardner who wrote novels that feature Perry Mason
62. Finishes
63. Discontinued Apple device
64. Follows perfect or big

Down

1. Con's target
2. Valley
3. River of W. Africa flowing SW to the Atlantic Ocean
4. Incarcerator
5. Indian nursemaid
6. Precedes dress, van or bars
7. The end of a hammer
8. Principal city of N. Portugal
9. Delivered
10. Uncontrollable sliding movement
11. In addition
13. Boondocks
15. Corey of *Antman*
20. Friendship
21. Roman emperor Servius Sulpicius
24. Tolerate
25. Takes advantage of
26. Creeps (in)
27. One's mother (Ind.)
28. Olivia of *House*
29. Fencing swords
30. Singer Diana
31. Flat piece of concrete
32. Marker
35. Member of the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia
36. Less often
37. Song from *The Bravery*
42. Liam Neeson films
43. Tiny
44. The winged form of an ant
47. Bitterness
48. Soon
49. Lump of clay
50. Woman's garment
51. Witty remark
52. Computer function
53. Dutch astronomer Jan Hendrik
54. Follows Blue, Albert or Victoria
55. Creation locale



Sudoku Corner

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

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

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

Answers to the brain teaser form last month

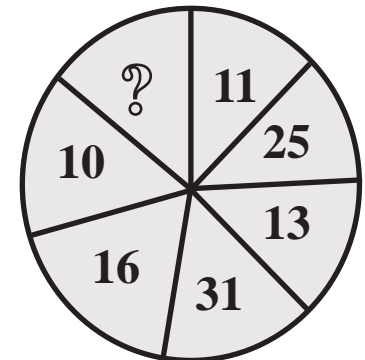
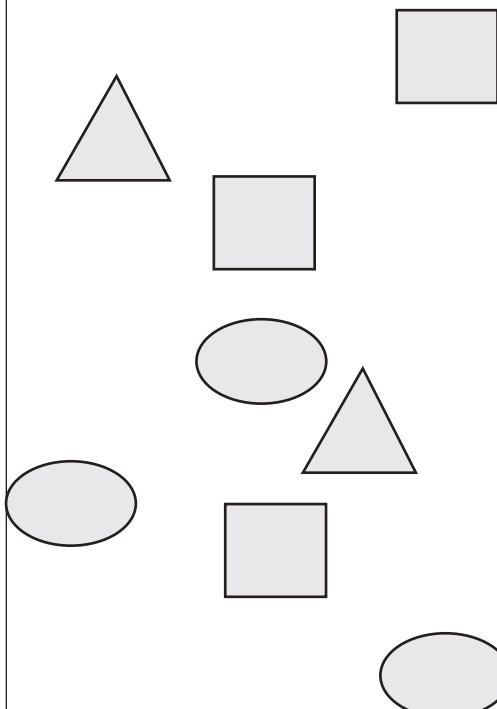
Answer to puzzle 1
12. The third number 27, is obtained by adding the digits of the two preceding number minus 7+2+9+9. This formula applies throughout the puzzle.

Answer to puzzle number 2 work it out
24. In the first circle, 56+79 divided by 5=27. the same formula applies to the circle 2 and 3

This month's Brain Teasers:

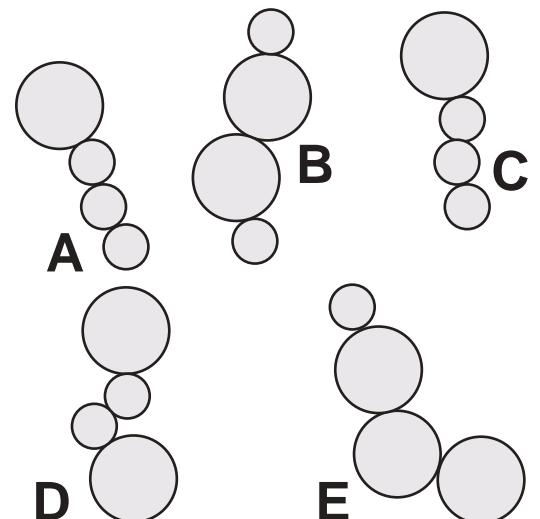
THREE CIRCLES

Draw three circles so that each contains one ellipse, one square and one triangle. No two circles may use all the same elements.



What is the missing number?

Little and Large



Which is the odd one out?

If you would like to submit a photograph to be placed in *SQ News* just because, please send it with name(s) and a brief message to go with your photo. Please understand, we may not be able to return your photo so send a copy and address the letter to:

San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964

El Inglés es un obstáculo para Latinos en segregación

Español

Por Juan Espinosa
Diseñador gráfico y escritor

El lenguaje se ha convertido en un obstáculo para los latinos que se encuentran en aislamiento en cárceles de máxima seguridad, según un artículo en el *Washington Post*.

Prisiones estatales y federales de los Estados Unidos usan unidades de máxima seguridad para albergar a miles de reos relacionados con pandillas o por razones de seguridad.

Abogados de La Unión de Libertades Civiles (ACLU) y el Centro de Justicia MacArthur están representando a Nicolás Reyes, quien dice que la barrera de lenguaje ha

sido un obstáculo para que él salga del aislamiento, según el artículo.

Aunque las instituciones que albergan a reos de alto perfil han comenzado a implementar programas en etapas para ayudar a que estos individuos salgan del aislamiento y se reintegren a la población carcelaria general, es difícil para los que no hablan Inglés.

Vishal Agraharkar, abogado de UCLA dijo que, “el programa de escalamiento no es significativo cuando los prisioneros no tienen acceso a este. Ciertamente en este caso, ha mantenido a alguien (en aislamiento) sin una justificación real.” Reyes alega que él no ha sido incluido en clases de inglés.

Uno de los requisitos para la reintegración es escribir un diario de las actividades personales mientras dura el encarcelamiento. Los reos tienen que escribir sus diarios en inglés.

Existen varios reos que tampoco pueden llenar este requisito porque no escriben inglés.

Reyes, un inmigrante salvadoreño, se encuentra recluido en la prisión Red Onion del Departamento de Correccionales de Virginia.

Los abogados de Reyes alegan que el solamente tiene una hora de recreación por día en una jaula y hay veces que pasa semanas sin poder salir. También alegan que cuando tiene oportunidad de salir, es sometido a una revisión corporal que incluye mostrar sus partes íntimas, según el artículo en el Wash-

ington Post.

El propósito de estos programas es ayudar a los reos a mostrar mejor comportamiento y a la vez les otorga ciertos privilegios como acceso a las tiendas de alimentos (las cuales son administradas por los departamentos correccionales), poder ver televisión, y más libertad de movimiento de acuerdo al artículo en el *Washington Post*.

En el pasado, varios hispanos que llegaron a pasar tiempo en las unidades de seguridad especiales enfrentaron problemas similares a los que enfrenta Reyes.

J. López, un inmigrante mexicano, no hablaba inglés y estuvo en el SHU (Unidades de segregación), de Corcoran, California.

“Me era muy difícil poderme comunicar con los oficiales ya que siempre me hablaban en inglés y yo no podía entenderlos. Recuerdo que cuando me esposaban no sabía que me decían e incluso en una ocasión casi me golpean porque no entendí lo que me dijeron y me moví antes que ellos me lo indicaran,” dijo López en una entrevista con SQ News. “Muchos

otros paisanos pasaban por la misma situación.”

California enfrentó problemas similares hasta que llegaron a un acuerdo legal en el caso de Ashur v. Brown. La demanda estaba relacionada con las condiciones de confinamiento en las unidades de segregación de la prisión (SHU). Los cambios se enfocaron en reparar los problemas de aislamiento por violaciones basadas en el comportamiento, más que por pertenencia a una pandilla, según un artículo en *Del Norte Triplicate* (www.triplicate.com).

Oficiales de la prisión de Pelican Bay decidieron cambiar el programa de aislamiento. Pelican Bay albergaba a cientos de prisioneros de alto perfil como líderes de pandillas entre otros hasta que las autoridades decidieron convertirlas unidades en una prisión de baja seguridad.

De acuerdo a ese arreglo, el Departamento Correccional ha dado a cientos de reos que se encontraban en las unidades de segregación (Security Housing Units, SHU) la oportunidad de aprovechar los privilegios otorgados al resto de la población.

La crisis en Honduras obliga a muchos ciudadanos a emigrar

Beltranchuc Taré
Escritor Contribuyente

La crisis humanitaria que se vive en honduras ha obligado a una caravana de hondureños a iniciar su éxodo hacia los Estados Unidos.

La pobreza, desempleo y la violencia, son algunas de las razones principales por las cuales los inmigrantes están abandonando su país. “La mayoría de los integrantes de la caravana tienen en mente una nueva vida en los Estados Unidos,” informó *The New York Times*.

La caravana fue formada en San Pedro Sula, una ciudad del norte de Honduras caracterizada por sus altos niveles de violencia, subrayó *The New York Times*. La movilización, inicialmente era de 200 inmigrantes, pero rápidamente aumentó a 3,000 en cuestión de días.

La primera etapa de ésta emigración fue atravesar la frontera con Guatemala donde fueron inicialmente recibidos con “gas lacrimógeno por parte de autoridades policiales de Guatemala y México. La segunda etapa, sería cruzar la frontera de México. Alba Luz

Giron Ramirez, originaria de San Pedro Sula, imploró a las autoridades mexicanas “por favor déjenos pasar”. Ramirez huye de la violencia de su país, donde las pandillas asesinaron a su hermano y la han amenazado. Su hijo Ramón, de tan solo 5 años, expresó silenciosamente, “queremos que nos permitan pasar por México, no nos quedaremos allí”, informó el USA TODAY.

El Presidente Mexicano Enrique Peña Nieto señaló, “México no permitirá el acceso de forma irregular y mucho menos de una forma violenta”. Según el USA TODAY, “las autoridades mexicanas permitirían el acceso a la caravana pero en grupos pequeños, no todos juntos”. Sin embargo, la desesperación de unos emigrantes los ha llevado “a cruzar la frontera mexicana ilegalmente a través de balsas”, comentó *The New York Times*.

La caravana está decidida a continuar con su trayectoria a los Estados Unidos a pesar de las fuertes amenazas del Presidente Donald Trump, de detener la ayuda a Centro

América y cerrar la frontera sur con México. José Yanez, agricultor de 25 años, señaló, “de aquí, seguiremos para adelante. No nos regresaremos”. Sin embargo, existen algunos emigrantes que están dispuestos a aceptar asilo político en México. Scarleth Cruz, hondureña de 21 años comentó, “porque habría de ir a los Estados Unidos, si voy a ser tratada como una criminal”, informó el USA TODAY. El Ministro Interior de México anunció que ha recibido 640 peticiones de asilo - 164 son de mujeres, incluyendo embarazadas y 104 de niños menores de 17 años.

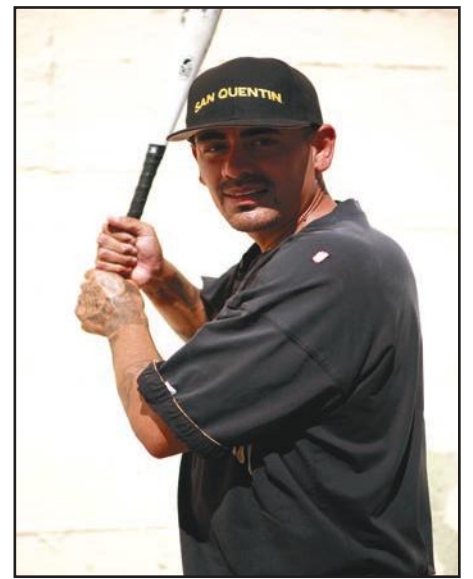
Esta migración no ha sido nada fácil, sus integrantes hacen el recorrido en vehículos y a pie. Varios niños se han enfermado por las condiciones climáticas y padres como Selvin Flores de 35 años de edad realizan sacrificios para que sus hijos puedan alimentarse.

A pesar de los contratiempos y las amenazas de Trump, la caravana continúa firme en la última etapa de su travesía, entrar a territorio estadounidense.

El deporte es un medio de rehabilitación para los prisioneros



Michael Pulido



Juan Alfredo Navarro

La retórica de Trump puede ser una farsa

Las declaraciones de Trump sobre sus intenciones de impedir el acceso a la caravana de inmigrantes hondureños, no es más que una farsa.

Es indiscutible que a la administración de Trump, le conviene que la caravana llegue a territorio americano para que puedan arrestarlos y así ayudar a las corporaciones que contribuyen con su gobierno.

GEO Group y CoreCivic Inc., son dos de las más grandes corporaciones privadas de detención en los Estados Unidos que han sido favorecidas con las pólizas de detención bajo la administración de Trump. En conjunto, estas empresas obtuvieron ganancias mayores a los “4 billones de dólares en el 2017”. La mayor parte de sus ingresos procedieron de los centros de detención, anunció Carli Pierson del periódico *Independent*.

De esta manera, los centros de detención de inmigración se han convertido en una de las empresas más lucrativas para la industria privada. Tal es el caso, que corporaciones como Canadian Pension Funds, están incrementando sus inversiones en GEO Group y CoreCivic Inc., porque se espera que las ganancias continúen aumentando bajo la póliza de inmigración del gobierno actual, donde “el número de arrestos de inmigrantes indocumentados sin antecedentes criminales se ha triplicado”, informó Pierson.

Todo parece indicar que existe un convenio entre la administración de Trump y las corporaciones de GEO Group y CoreCivic Inc. “En el 2017, Trump recibió \$250,000 dólares de cada una de estas empresas”, según el *Independent*. Por lo tanto, no hay razón para creer que las contribuciones dejarán de fluir, mientras la actual administración continúe con las vigentes pólizas y los miembros del congreso continúen subsidiando esta industria.

GEO Group y CoreCivic Inc., han invertido millones de dólares requiriendo al presidente y al Congreso de la nación, que el gobierno no invierta en alternativas de detención más humanas, eficientes, y efectivas. La implementación de nuevas alternativas pondría comprometer la existencia de estas corporaciones, a quienes se les “exige por ley mantener 34,000 camas ocupadas diariamente” para seguir operando. Además, el implementar alternativas para la detención de inmigrantes que no representan una amenaza para la sociedad podría ahorrar a los contribuyentes hasta un “80% del costo anual que se invierte en los centros privados de detención a inmigrantes”, de acuerdo a el *Independent*.

Pierson subrayó que “el costo promedio por persona es \$119-159 diariamente, que viene siendo aproximadamente \$5.5 millones de dólares al día y

más de \$2 billones al año. En el 2017, Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) gastó 3 billones para manejar el sistema de inmigración”. Sin embargo, para este año fiscal, ICE ha solicitado un billón extra al Congreso.

En el 2018, Trump firmó una nueva póliza llamada “cero tolerancia”, que afirma que las familias no serán separadas al ser detenidas. Sin embargo, el cambio de póliza no se debió a la protesta global de lo inhumano que es separar a los hijos de sus padres y detenerlos como criminales, si no que se debió al dinero. Detener familias juntas, implicaría que permanecerían más tiempo en los centros de detención mientras son procesados y se requeriría servicios adicionales para los menores de edad.

Los centros de detenciones son como los hoteles donde “permanecer por más tiempo y requerir más comodidades cuesta más, lo cual significa más ingresos para las corporaciones privadas. Ganancias que pagan los ciudadanos con sus impuestos, a quienes se les informa que las fronteras serán más seguras con estas medidas”, menciona el *Independent*.

Mientras Trump continúa denigrando a la caravana de inmigrantes para satisfacer a sus simpatizantes, la realidad es otra.

—Beltranchuc Taré
Escritor Contribuyente

“El béisbol me ha ayudado a mantenerme alejado de los acciones disciplinarias (115’s), comentó Juan Alfredo Navarro de 31 años, quien actualmente se encuentra en la Prisión de San Quentin cumpliendo una sentencia de 40 años por robo.

Para él, llegar a la Prisión de San Quentin, fue un sueño hecho realidad, “cuando estaba en la otra prisión y miraba a alguien con el periódico de San Quentin se lo pedía prestado y lo primero que hacía era leer la sección de deportes y eso me motivaba. A mis amigos les dije que si algún día me transfirieran a San Quentin sería parte del equipo de béisbol”, dijo Navarro.

Al llegar a San Quentin, Navarro inmediatamente pregunto cómo podía formar parte del programa de béisbol, pero le dijeron que tenía que esperar hasta el próximo año. Pero esta respuesta no lo desmoralizó, su amor al deporte lo impulsó a seguir insistiendo, al grado que le permitieron practicar con el equipo de béisbol San Quentin A’s. Conforme avanzaban las prácticas, fue demostrando su talento y un día su perseverancia fue recompensada al ser aceptado

oficialmente como parte del equipo. Navarro enfatizó, “cada vez que porto la playera #19, me siento muy orgulloso porque representó a los hispanos”.

Navarro agregó que el deporte es una herramienta muy valiosa para canalizar el estrés, la frustración, mantenerse físicamente saludable y auto-disciplinarse. “No cuestiono a mis entrenadores y mucho menos discuto sus decisiones”. El deporte también le ha ayudado a fortalecer su relación con su padre y hermanos, “cuando hablo con mi padre y mis hermanos, siempre platicamos de béisbol, y nuestra relación ha mejorado”.

Michael Pulido, un residente de San Quentin de 43 años, quien inicialmente recibió una sentencia de vida sin la posibilidad de libertad condicional, expresó, después de pasar casi 25 años en una prisión de nivel 4, llegar a San Quentin y ver todos los programas deportivos que esta institución ofrece, “inmediatamente sentí en mi corazón que debería ser parte del equipo de béisbol”. Pulido se siente orgulloso de ser el encargado de utilería del equipo de béisbol A’s de San Quentin. “Estar al servicio del

equipo me ha ayudado a ser más humilde y a mantenerme alejado de los problemas”.

Pulido, compartió con el *San Quentin News* como el deporte ha contribuido con su rehabilitación. “Ser parte del equipo de béisbol me beneficia de muchas maneras. Me ayuda a socializarme con otras personas sin importar el color de la piel. A comprender el significado del trabajo en equipo, a desarrollar valores como la humildad, cooperación y perseverancia”.

Al preguntarles que mensaje les gustaría enviarles a las personas que lean este artículo, Navarro mencionó, “todo es posible si nos esforzamos, traten de encontrar alguna actividad que los mantenga alejado de los problemas”. Por otra parte Pulido señaló, “todos podemos llegar a ser miembros productivos de la sociedad y tomar decisiones correctas si no los proponemos. Aunque tengan sentencias largas, no se den por vencidos las leyes están cambiando”. Pulido concluyó mencionando que en el 2017, su sentencia fue modificada a 25 años a vida con la posibilidad de libertad condicional.

—Beltranchuc Taré
Escritor Contribuyente

Eight emerging artists turn chapel into raucous concert hall

By Joe Garcia
Staff Writer

On an otherwise quiet Sunday evening, nine guitars rang out in harmony and transformed San Quentin's Catholic Chapel into a raucous concert hall.

"This was a great opportunity for us to communicate musically with no boundaries and just let our hair down," said volunteer instructor Kurt Huget. He showcased eight emerging artists from his

weekly guitar clinic as they all plucked and strummed their way through a handpicked playlist of crowd favorites.

"I just love these guys," Huget said. "They're so dedicated and open to learning from each other."

The World Series and Sunday Night Football notwithstanding, a sparse but enthusiastic audience showed up to enjoy the Oct. 28 event. The intimate performance was sponsored through Bread and Roses Presents, an organi-

zation that coordinates over 1,000 volunteer musicians with more than 50 venues each month.

"We believe in the healing power of music," said Lisa Starbird of Bread and Roses. "It always lifts my spirits, and that's why we try and bring music to those that are isolated."

Starbird said that this was the first Bread and Roses performance comprised solely of inmate volunteers. She's anxious to keep this

new tradition alive at San Quentin.

"It just makes me feel good to come to San Quentin and jam with the class each week," Huget said. "It's the most relaxed three hours of my life – believe it or not."

Several artists also braved the spotlight to sing lead vocals.

First up was Treyshawn McCarthy, who sang Ben E. King's "Stand By Me". "I was nervous at the beginning," acknowledged McCarthy. "I

didn't think we were ready for this, but after the first song, I knew that we were."

Gary Harrell, a guitar student who was not performing, emerged from the front row to join in and spice up the tune with his harmonica. Huget graciously shared his mic stand so Harrell's harp could get some amplification.

McCarthy equally contributed his pipes to whistling chorus notes energetically in support of Huget's vocals on Otis Redding's "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay".

Thomas Washington hit all the high notes on "Under the Boardwalk", with Johnathan Smith baritoneing the title hook. Washington also sang lead on Santana's "Black Magic Woman", the Commodores' "Easy", and the Drifters' "On Broadway".

"It's hard to sing and play at the same time," Washington explained after the show. "That's something I have to work on; it was part of our repertoire in guitar class."

"I'd like to do it again. Every time you perform, it's like a feather in your cap."

The lone player of an electric guitar, Kevin D. Sawyer, unassumingly sprinkled twangy flavor throughout the entire performance, as well as being the featured soloist for "The Star Spangled Banner". Huget introduced the national anthem as one of the most challenging songs for a

guitarist to play.

Douglas Ingham sang the only original piece of the set, describing his "San Quentin Blues" as a tune dedicated to his late wife, Jackie, who passed away in 2008. "The song was actually written for her," stated Ingham. "I was thinking the blues would make a great old lady, but they'll only leave you crying."

"I played that song one time in class, and Kurt said 'We have to do that one in the show.'"

He said he has written between 15 and 20 songs, some with lyrics.

Ingham also took the lead for Hank Williams' "I'm So Lonesome".

The audience jubilantly sang along and offered by far the biggest round of applause for Bob Dylan's "Knockin' On Heaven's Door". Harrell again splashed through with animated harmonica licks.

Louis Calvin, Billy Dooley, and David Farber rounded out the ensemble to give the corps of acoustic guitars its full-bodied punch.

Covering a total of 20 songs, the group played until it was time to vacate the chapel. The set ended with Bill Withers' "Lean On Me", and everyone joined in on the lyrics.

"Who booked this gig?" mused first-time performer Calvin. "It turned out to be a real sausage fest."



Students in the Kurt Huget guitar class

Photo by Raphael Casale

Comedyfest showcase brings comfort to SQ's Protestant Chapel

By Timothy Hicks
Staff Writer

A comedy fest showcased three funny and talented individuals who brought comfort, joy and laughter to more than 300 San Quentin inmates in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel.

Chuckles and Laughs was the theme of the Nov. 30 nighttime show as comics shared funny and edgy stories and jokes.

"Laughter is the cure to the soul," said Ramon Watkins. "I came in with things on my mind and the laughter made me feel much better."

Watkins enjoyed Oran "Artwork" Hutson, 40, who "brought down the house" with his performance of Staff Talkers, Unforgiving, Going Back to Africa, and PTSD.

Hudson, incarcerated 22 years, said he became a comic two months ago; however, it appeared he was a natural. He

was not afraid to talk about his family.

"I had to thank my mama for not smoking crack. I had to thank her because I could have been real messed up if she would of stole my video game and the toaster and microwave," said Hudson. His performance had the crowd toppling over in laughter. In the end, the audience gave him a standing ovation.

Ten-year veteran comedian Kerry Rudd, 38, gave an edgy performance with a conservative style. His jokes of crime, punishment, drugs and family earned a few chuckles and laughs, but more heckles and ridicule. He made light of his past life as a robber. He said he represented himself in court once on robbery charges, during which he joked with the prosecutor and judge.

He told a joke about how he earned the title "Thief." After he burglarized a house, the resident chased after him yell-

ing, "Stop thief!"

That joke got a few laughs from the crowd of young hecklers who scrutinized Rudd early during his performance. However, host Andress Yancy encouraged him to continue.

Rudd said he discovered he was funny at age 20. He said that his childhood was serious, so he turned to comedy as a relief.

During the intermission, Charles "Pookie" Sylvester and Yancy did a two-minute skit reminiscing about their childhood. They knew each other on the streets, when they were members of different street gangs. The two now stood on the same stage doing jokes about each other's past life and entertaining the guests.

Richie Morris performed intermission music.

Also Chisom "Fakir" Jo, 49, gave the crowd a blast from the past with his "Pop-

ping Dance."

San Quentin resident Dennis Barnes was not in a good mood before the show, but that feeling changed after he heard the comedy and music from the performers.

"Those comics made me laugh and the music was good too," said Barnes.

SQ Resident Timothy Holmes also enjoyed the entertainment. Holmes was feeling down, but his emotional state changed after his favorite comic, Jesse Ayers, performed.

"He was the best comic to me," said Holmes. "Yeah, Jesse and Artwork were my favorites, but Jesse was the one I could feel."

Ayers was the last performer. He performed multiple jokes of prison situations, like the homosexual aspect and real life events that the crowd could relate to.

"I remember when I first came to San Quentin," said

Ayers. "I was used to being at those tough prisons where there were all men. I heard about San Quentin and the history of it, so I was expecting some tough reception from the inmates when I arrived here."

As Ayers continued, the crowd was on the brink of laughing. "When I got to the tier, I heard this lady's voice inviting me to his cell." Ayers did an impersonation of a woman and the crowd exploded in laughter.

Ayers grew up watching comics Eddie Murphy, Martin Lawrence, Richard Pryor and the television show "In Living Color".

"One day it just clicked," said Ayers. While he was out with friends and being his usually funny self, one of those friends encouraged him to attend a comedy show. That's where Ayers decided to become a comic.

The 39-year-old had the

crowd boiling with laughter from a prison phone-call joke.

Ayers said he is a natural at comedy, but it didn't happen overnight. To reach his current level, he had to practice.

"I did jokes on people and things around me," said Ayers. "I was real poor and laughter was the Christmas for me."

The show was brought to an early close due to a "recall of the institution." Everyone had to return to their cells.

Eugene "Shaylee" Williams, a longtime resident of San Quentin, praised the event.

"This was a good thing for convicts to come together and laugh to relieve the pressures of the prison system," said Williams. "I'm used to the early recalls but, as usual, I knew it would resume because there's never any real danger or violence here; alarms are always about a sick person." He laughed as he walked away.

Five nights of mind, body and soul seeking at Christian revival

By Lloyd Payne
Journalism Guild Writer

The phrase "a convenient season" was taken from the Book of Acts, Chapter 24; Verse 25 as a theme for San Quentin's Garden Chapel annual revival.

For five nights, a convenient season was explained in depth. Pastor Ferrari Moody, prisoner sparked the interest of a hundred men with a sermon titled, "Your habits determine your harvest."

"At the root of this principle lies the prevailing disposition of our thoughts which dictate our action and ultimately develops our character," he said repeatedly to the men who made up the congregation here.

Men who came broken in three parts: mind, body, and

soul seeking to be whole again. As well as men who came to restore grace, favor, and reap what they have sown as men of God.

"When we talk about revival all through history revival is for thirsty people, hungry people, and the need for refreshments," said Moody.

"For us it's the fruit of the spirit. Love, joy, peace, kindness, forgiving, long suffering, and patience we refreshing our mind and heart with," he said.

Musa Bailey, 62 year-old lifer said this is his third revival at the Garden Chapel.

"It's an opportunity to renew yourself if you may have gotten off track," said Bailey, "It's like going to the gas station to refill your car up."

"We have theatrical holiness where we act humble

instead of being humble," he says, "My goal is to be in the image, and likeness of God. The revival brings me a couple steps closer without the theatrical holiness that burns you out acting."

There was praise dancing to gospel recording artist William Murphy single "This is my season" by the Mime ministry dancers Andress Yancee, Orlando Harris and Ventrise Lasater.

Sonny J. Sanchez, a former gang member from Riverside, and present-day minister said, "At 61-years-old I had to come to San Quentin to learn how to love a black man after hating them all my life."

"I was taught hate by my dad. As a minister in Riverside I wouldn't go into the black neighborhood of Edge-

mont when the pastor would send me to go preach," he said as he broke into tears.

"I got here to San Quentin. I got to meet Elder Holloway, and he showed me nothing but love. Accepted me as his own," Sanchez cried.

No stranger to tears herself, the Chapels Chaplain Mardi Ralph Jackson shed tears of joy for her own.

"God is elevating the hearts and the minds of men to a deeper place in God," she said bearing witness to the power of love.

Reflecting on the theme, Pastor Harry Hemphill also of the Garden Chapel said, "When Chaplain Jackson first came to the Garden Chapel she declared this will be a house of prayer to prepare it for consecration. She went around praying over every-

thing in the chapel to rid it of bad spirits.

"We have been through seasons of perseverance, dealt with health issues, some of us closed our eyes, and opened them on the other side."

Hemphill said, "Since I been in prison, God has been pulling out pride. Removing people, and things that were hindering this ministry, the challenge to man up, and be soldiers, because we had been called to be soldiers of the Lord."

Visiting from Houston, Bishop LT Chung of ASATT Church anointed Pastor Moody, Pastor Hemphill, and Elder Holloway. A certificate of appreciation was given to the bishop on behalf of the Garden Chapel along with Mariam Barnes of Let's Talk Ministry.

Elder Crummie visiting from Wings of Love Ministry said, "We are vessels of honor, and if you know anything about vessels, vessels are made for the purpose to hold something or put something in."

"Men are master builders, but if that vessel is not holding anything or has anything on the inside it does not serve its purpose as a vessel."

He explained there is a lot of people who are walking around as empty and broken vessels.

"All vessels reflect the craftsmanship of the designer or the one who designed it, and we who are God's people who reflect that, have a purpose."

"No one is here by accident...God wants to use us all."

Death Row gains attention with crucifixion painting

By Achilles Williams
Journalism Guild Writer

Prisoners on Death Row in Nashville gained the attention of many parishioners with a thought-provoking painting of the crucifixion scene of Jesus, reported Holly Meyer of the *USA Today Network*.

Derrick Quintero, sentenced to death in 1991 for first-degree murder, is one of the artists who depicted the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

"The piece of art is a commentary on the continuing battle for our collective moral world view. I asked my fellow community members to help

me create this project to begin conversation about what justice looks like," Quintero said.

Even as the artists remained in their cages, their artwork, painted on two long scrolls, was free to travel to churches and other religious institutions with the help of Deacon W. James Booth of Holy Family Catholic Church.

"I think the hope is that the people who believe that death row is populated by unsavable monsters see in this the work of human hands and people with faith. Many of them have done very bad, terrible things, but our faith teaches us that forgiveness and redemp-

tion are always possibilities," Booth explained.

"Those who see the artwork can take away what they will from it, but it is not meant to be a political statement or push policy. The hope is that it can serve as a bridge of faith between the inmates and the outside world," he continued.

But, even as the artwork is circulating, the Tennessee State Supreme Court was scheduling a handful of executions for later this year.

"The Catholic Church opposes the death penalty, but that does not mean the people who fill the pews all agree," Booth said.

Booth abstains from talking policy while facilitating the showing of the Stations of the Cross. Rather, he discusses the men who created the artwork and asks viewers to reflect on the crucifixion of their savior Jesus.

"In my mind, it can be transformative in the way that a visit to Death Row can be. Taking those scrolls out, in a way, does some of that work without some of those individuals having to leave the comfort of their neighborhoods and parishes," he said.

The artwork, undoubtedly,

provoked healthy conversations about Jesus and justice among the prisoners themselves.

Quintero was unsure whether the painting changed the opinions of fellow prisoners, but he believes it has generated conversations that replicate the community model fostered on Death Row.

"We tackle all the positive and destructive issues that were a part of our lives," Quintero said.

A spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Corrections, Neysa Taylor, chimed

in on the state's support of such programs.

"The Tennessee Department of Corrections embraces therapeutic programs that allow offenders to both process and work through their thoughts on their crime and how they can change their lives for the better," Taylor said.

The artwork impressed Alvaro Manrique Barrenechea when he unrolled the scrolls before him at Christ Church Cathedral, an Episcopal church in downtown Nashville.

"It's a powerful piece."

Developing a relationship from 40 years of letter writing

By Lloyd Payne
Journalism Guild Writer

Letter-writing has not lost its appeal, at least not for Carol Horan, who values having something handwritten for its "lasting quality." She has been a pen pal to prisoners for more than 40 years.

Horan first wrote a man name Jeff Dicks, who later died in prison of a massive heart attack after 17 years on Death Row, according to *mysouthside-stand.com*, a digital news site.

"The first letter was so hard to write because you don't know what to say or ask," Horan said.

As she got to know Dicks, she learned he was convicted in 1979 for allegedly murdering a store owner. She felt that he "as a poor White man in the South" had a hard time getting a fair trial.

She developed a friendship with Dicks and got to visit him with his mother, who had tried for years to prove his innocence.

"To physically see (him) and being able to hug him," Horan said. "It was pure joy."

Over the years, they corresponded about everything including life in solitary confinement, his appeals, his divorce from his wife, being an absentee father and later, his earned privileges that allowed him to teach a class. After Dicks' fatal heart attack, she stopped writing letters for a while to process the loss of her friend.

During the past 40 years, Horan has corresponded with 10 inmates; currently she writes to three prisoners. One is on Death Row.

She is usually paired with a man through the Death Row Support Project but felt compelled to write to Habakkuk Nickens after reading an article about Nickens' efforts to prevent gang violence in South Side Chicago. She remembered Habakkuk from Seymour Elementary School when she was a school secretary there.

While serving a 20-year sentence for gang activity at

the Federal Correctional Institution in Ray Brook, N.Y., Habakkuk created a program called MEN, Men Educating Neighborhoods.

"It's just a beautiful thing," Horan said, "It is a very loving friendship, and he is doing beautiful work trying to turn his life around."

The other two men she is currently writing are Jonathan, who is incarcerated at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, and Von, a 72-year-old man who has been on Death Row in Ohio for the past 35 years.

She never questions the men about what they did but asks how they spend their leisure time in prison or what type of prison jobs they have. She keeps photos of her prison friends on her refrigerator and stores all their letters in a box.

"One of the beautiful things about writing and receiving (a letter) is that you can read it again and again," Horan told the *Stand* reporter in November.

CA court orders new board hearing for youth offender William Palmer

LEGAL

By Joe Hancock
Contributing Writer

A California State Court of Appeal ruled that the Board of Parole Hearings (Board) denied parole without considering the youth of William Palmer, who committed kidnapping for robbery as a juvenile. The court ordered the board to give Palmer a new parole hearing and consider his age at the time of the crime.

"Considering the Board's statutory obligation to give 'great weight' to those (youth) factors, its decision to find Palmer unsuitable for release, despite the presence of almost all the variables the Board itself has deemed indicative of statutory youth offender factors, cannot stand." (First Appellate District, Division Two of the Court of Appeal of California. *In re Palmer* 27 Cal. App.5th 120)

The youth offender laws requires the Board to presume a person who committed their crime when they were under 26 years old suitable for release "unless there is substantial evidence" the youth offender remains an unreasonable risk to public safety.

In 1988, *Palmer*, a 17-year-old high school dropout pled

guilty to kidnapping for robbery and was sentenced as an adult to 15 years to life with the possibility of parole. He appeared before the Board 10 times, without success.

In June of 2015, *Palmer* received a five-year parole denial as a result of two rule violations he received for using an illegal cell phone in 2012 to tell his sister their mother died and giving a T-shirt to his girlfriend during a visit in 2014, court records show.

Board, in making their determination, did not give "great weight" to the fact *Palmer* committed his crime when he was 17 years old and the changes he has made since.

The First Appellate District found that denying *Palmer* youth offender parole was arbitrary and capricious because the Board did not give "great weight" to the statutory youth factors and the Board did not explain why *Palmer*'s two rule violations were substantial evidence that outweighed all of his other positive achievements that he had accomplished while incarcerated.

During his incarceration, *Palmer* obtained his high school diploma, earned an Associate in Arts degree, joined Arts in Corrections and learned how to paint; he sold some of his artwork and painted three murals on the prison

grounds. He also participated in a range of self-help programs, including substance abuse and victim impact, the Long-Term Offender Pilot Program, courses on conflict resolution and anger management, faith-based self-improvement programs, Narcotics Anonymous, Criminal Gangs and Violence Prevention Program; tutored other youth offenders; volunteered as an inmate peer health educator; and participated in the Visiting Beautification Project. *Palmer* also had solid parole plans, letters of support from family, friends, prison staff and correctional officers, and community volunteers.

The court noted that the statutory "great weight" provision of the youth factors "diminishes the Board's discretion to determine the basis upon which suitability or unsuitability for release may be determined."

UPDATE: On January 16, 2019, as this article was going to print, the California Supreme Court granted review in *In re Palmer*, Case Number S252145 and ordered that the opinion filed September 13, 2018 which appears at 27 Cal. App.5th 120 be de-published. Therefore, this case may not be cited for precedence. The questions presented on review may take up to a year to decide.

Canadians favor death penalty

By Timothy Hicks
Staff Writer

A Canadian newspaper editorial cites a 2016 survey that says 58 percent of Canadians favor the return of the death penalty.

The editorial board of the Ottawa Sun took issue with Amnesty International Canada (AIC) criticizing Florida's use of the death penalty.

Canada abolished capital punishment in 1976 — the same year the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty.

The last execution in Canada was when Ronald Turpin and Arthur Lucas were hanged at Toronto's Don Jail in 1962.

The *Sun's* editorial board suggested that AIC should

focus more on the growing numbers of Canadians wanting to bring back the death penalty instead of spending time in Florida fighting the death penalty in another country.

In the major democratic governments in the world, all but three have abolished the death penalty — India, Japan and the U.S.

The Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) reports that as of July 1, 2017, there are 2,817 Death Row inmates in the U.S.

According to the DPIC, since 1976 the U.S. has carried out 1,465 executions.

Two California ballot initiatives in 2016 involved capital punishment. The first resulted in the death penalty staying on the books — the second sped

up the execution process. Multiple lawsuits, however, have stalled executions since 2006.

California's Death Row male inmates are housed at San Quentin State Prison and the women at Chowchilla Women's Facility. The state has approximately 750 Death Row inmates. All but 53 are men.

According to the DPIC, since December 21, 2017, Gabriel Solache is the 161st person exonerated from death row.

The *Sun's* editorial board says that the death penalty "is wrong."

They argued that capital punishment "is more expensive than imprisonment, has little effectiveness as a deterrent, and risks the execution of innocent people."

State v. Gregory ruled unconstitutional

By Richard Bonnie Evans
Journalism Guild Writer

Abolition of the death penalty is likely in the near future, a constitutional law professor says.

"The American death penalty lurched one step closer to its eventual demise" because of a Washington State Supreme Court decision in October, Garrett Epps wrote in an article for *The Atlantic*.

"In *State v. Gregory*, the state court held that the death penalty, as imposed in the state of Washington, was unconstitutional because it was racially biased," noted Epps, a faculty member at the University of Baltimore.

Epps pointed to a ruling from the Washington Supreme Court, which found in October 2018 that death penalty sentencing in that state was "... arbitrary and racist in its application." This ruling gives Epps hope the death penalty

is moving to "...its eventual demise..."

The court's decision was based on two studies which gave evidence that in Washington, "Black defendants were four and a half times more likely to be sentenced to death than similarly situated White defendants."

"Washington's death penalty is administered in an arbitrary and racially biased manner..." This is a violation of the Washington State Constitution's prohibition on "cruel punishment," the court concluded.

Epps said the U.S. Supreme Court's management of capital punishment cases over the past half century to be "miserable."

It was 1972 when the U.S. Supreme Court placed a moratorium, (15 years), on death sentences in Georgia, finding that state's capital punishment laws, "cruel and unusual," in violation of the 8th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The concern was that an argument could be made that Georgia's judicial processes for capital crime could statistically be shown as "arbitrary or racially based," said Epps.

Further he wrote that in 1987 when *McCleskey v Kemp* came before the court, once more from Georgia, the criminal defense claimed a "dual operating system" was in play in that state which gave greater penalties for Black defendants compared to White. Handing out penalties based upon race is "a clear violation of the 8th Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment" and of the 14th Amendment's guarantee of the equal protection of the law. Justice Powell cast the deciding 5-4 vote, writing for the majority in which the ruling went against *McCleskey* and his criminal defense. But years later, retired Justice Powell told his biographer he "...would change his vote in *McCleskey*..."

Magick helps man to survive the row

By Aron Roy
Journalism Guild Writer

An Arkansas inmate performed ceremonial "magick" to help him survive Death Row, reported an article in *The Guardian*.

Damien Echols said he summoned an angel through magick (which he believes is a mixture of gnostic Christianity, esoteric Judaism, and Taoist energy practices) to protect himself.

"It had no discernible facial features. But I knew it was an angel," Echols said, "and I got why angels in the Bible say 'be not afraid' when they show up, because this thing was terrifying."

Echols and two friends were convicted of killing three 8-year-old boys in the early 1990s, according to the article. With no physical evidence to link the "West Memphis Three" to the murders, prosecutors instead relied on pentagram doodles and the teenagers' belief in Wicca to convince a jury that they committed the murders as ritual sacrifices.

Echols and his codefendants were released in 2011 after HBO's program "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" created a movement to free them and new DNA evidence introduced another suspect.

"I did magick to lessen the power of politicians who were interested in carrying out my murder," Echols wrote. "I performed magick to draw freedom toward me."

Echols is now a spiritual teacher and author, helping others learn magick. His classes have attracted a small but devoted following, according to *The Guardian*.

"I look to Damien because like thousands of others, I was inspired by his resilience," said one of his followers, Sarah, a school administrator from D.C. "He taught me that anyone can be freed from their own personal prison cell."

Videogame-based novel draws influences from real life

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

I recently walked into San Quentin's library and noticed on a whiteboard a list of books. I asked the clerk, Kevin Rojano, "Which one of these would you want reviewed in our newspaper?" The bright-eyed 23-year-old recommended *Halo*.

Halo: The Fall of Reach by Eric Nylund (2001) is the first in an ongoing series of the videogame-based novels. It takes place in the 26th century. Humans have settled on planets throughout the galaxy. Aliens attack "Reach"—a first strike that

jeopardizes all of humanity, including earth. Tasked with taking down the aliens are augmented soldiers led by Master Chief Spartan-117, aka John.

Corporal Harland, rescued by the "Spartans," described them as follows:

The one in the lead stood over two meters tall and looked like he weighed two hundred kilograms. His armor was a strange reflective green alloy, and underneath matte black. Their motions were so fluid and graceful—fast and precise, too. More like robots than flesh and blood.

Rojano adjusted his black-rimmed glasses and told me he read all 12 Halo novels in San Quentin's library. He likes reading sci-fi

and fantasy. He's currently reading *The Way of Kings*, the first in *The Storm Light Archive* series by Brandon Sanderson.

"*The Storm Light Archive* reminds me of *Halo*," Rojano said. "You got this dude who's a nobody and then he gets all these superpowers to do good," which is a plot that reminds me of *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895) where the innocent young protagonist, Henry Fleming, becomes a hero.

Though *Halo* doesn't make a case against war the way Dalton Trumbo argued in *Johnny Got His Gun* (1939), the Spartans' reliability, allegiance, conformance and loyalty are character traits that make them likable, even though senti-

mentality, warmth, kindness and empathy are not there.

Author Nylund portrays Spartan-117's perception about himself and others as follows:

The Master Chief would never question his orders, but he felt a momentary stab of bitterness. Whoever set these camps up without proper reconnaissance, whoever had blindly trusted the satellite transmissions in an enemy-held region, had been a fool.

Nevertheless, Nylund makes up for the missing ingredient of social substance by creating an action-packed "videogame read" that's mission driven, like Ernest Cline did in *Ready Player One* (2011).

In addition, Nylund writes battle scenes that are descriptive and easily conceivable for special effects in today's cinema. As an example:

Archer missiles impacted seconds later, exploding through chunks of hull and armor, tearing the alien ships apart. The frigate that had taken the MAC round in her engines mushroomed, a fireworks bouquet of shrapnel and sparks.

Nylund also succeeds in



visualizing the mysterious nature of first contact with an alien species, the same way authors John Sandford and Ctien did in *Saturn Run* (2015).

As to character comparison, I found in a screenplay, *Hindu Kush*, written by Gabriel Tolliver, an ability to combine plot, narrative and the social impact of war through unlikely characters that are drawn together for a mission-driven story.

Tolliver introduced a distant, so-called enemy (Afghans) to fuel American hatred toward a culture they

don't understand and take a dig at the politics behind war.

In one scene, a Taliban, Masood, tells an American officer, Kipling, "If we are not fighting you, we're fighting each other over the poppy and timber."

Kipling responds, "Like Bloods and Crips."

In another scene, Masood comments to Kipling, "Are drones the future?" Kipling selfishly responds, "Hope so. I don't have to be here."

Masood makes his perspective relevant. "We call them the Bangano, which translates into thunder-clap," he says. "I almost got killed by one of your Obama drones several years ago in Pakistan. Left a meeting early to check on one of my children, who had fallen ill."

Kipling tells him, "Lucky for you," and Masood laments, "I'm tired of war. I want a future for my children."

Kipling concludes, "Well, I think you've earned that."

Halo is not insightful regarding the effects of war on opposing forces, nor is it a "meet you halfway" story about settling differences. *Halo* is a "zero sum game," in an endless galaxy.



NEWS BRIEFS

1. Alabama – State lawmakers took steps to change Alabama's execution method from lethal injections to nitrogen hypoxia, *Criminal Legal News* reports. The change ended a lawsuit filed by eight Death Row prisoners who chose execution by nitrogen hypoxia over lethal injection.

2. Arkansas – A trial judge dismissed all charges against former Death Row prisoner Rickey Dale Newman and set him free on Oct. 11. Newman spent nearly 17 years incarcerated following the February 2001 murder of a transient woman, the Death Penalty Information Center reports. He became the 160th person since 1973 to be exonerated after a wrongful conviction and death sentence.

3. Baltimore – James "J.J." Owens received \$9 million last May for being wrongfully convicted of the 1988 rape and murder of a woman. DNA evidence exonerated Owens in 2006, and he was released from prison in 2008. After 10 years of legal wrangling, the case finally settled, *Criminal Legal News* reports.

4. California – Los Angeles County's jail population is three times larger than San Diego's; however, the death rate in San Diego jails is higher, *Criminal Legal News* reports. Between 2007 and 2012, 60 prisoners died in San Diego's jails, including 16 suicides. None of the 10 largest jails in the state had a higher death rate.

5. Lincoln County, Ore. – Bradley Thomas' family collected \$2.85 million to settle a wrongful death suit, *Prison Legal News* reports. Thomas, 55 years old, was mentally ill when he died of dehydration

in a county jail. The lawsuit claimed that jailers violated his civil rights when they were "deliberately indifferent" to his serious medical and psychiatric needs following his arrest in 2015.

6. Little Rock, Ark. – The state's highest court decided 4-3 to strike down the state's death-penalty mental competency law. The ruling held that it is a due process violation for prison directors exclusively to decide if a Death Row prisoner is competent for execution, the Death Penalty Information Center reports.

7. Louisiana – While lawyers litigate the state's lethal injection protocol, a federal judge halted the execution of the state's 71 Death Row prisoners, until at least July 18, 2019, *Criminal Legal News* reports.

8. Iowa – The state's Supreme Court adopted and announced a new rule that takes claims of actual innocence as freestanding claims under the post-conviction-relief statute, regardless of whether the applicant knowingly and voluntarily pleaded guilty. The new rule overturns prior cases that had barred relief under those facts, *Criminal Legal News* reports.

9. New York – Herman Bell received a sentence of 25 years to life in 1971 for the murder of two NYPD officers. He spent 46 years in prison. He was denied parole seven times before granted parole and released in April 2018. Now 70 years old, he's long held that he was a political prisoner, *Prison Legal News* reports.

10. Oklahoma – Two former Death Row prisoners agreed to a \$3.15 million settlement in their federal civil rights lawsuits against their prosecutor and the State of Oklahoma, *Prison Legal News* reports. Yancy L. Douglas, 43, and Paris Lapriest Powell, 44,

were exonerated in 2009 of the drive-by shooting of a 14-year-old girl in 1993.

11. Philadelphia – On his third day in office, District Attorney Larry Krasner fired 31 career prosecutors, *Criminal Legal News* reports. He instructed the remaining prosecutors to stop insisting on cash bail for minor offenses, such as possessing marijuana.

12. South Dakota – Rodney Scott Berget, 56, was executed Nov. 11 for killing 63-year-old corrections officer Ronald Johnson in 2011 during an escape attempt with another inmate, reports *Newsweek*.

13. Tennessee – *The Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy* published a review of the application of capital punishment in the state. The review examined all the first-degree murder cases prosecuted in the last 40 years and concluded that the system is a "cruel lottery" and does not rectify the deficiencies that led the U.S. Supreme Court to declare its death penalty laws unconstitutional in 1972," *Criminal Legal News* reports.

14. Texas – Of the 26,000 guards employed in the state's 104 prisons, 28 percent quit in 2017, an increase from last year's 22.8 percent turnover rate, state reports show. The high rate of attrition was followed by a failure to fill 3,930 open positions, resulting in a vacancy rate of 15.22 percent in April, *Prison Legal News* reports.

15. USA – A survey was conducted for the Vera Institute of Justice between Feb. 27 and March 5, found a majority of Americans, 67 percent overall, believe that building more prisons and jails does not reduce crime, *Prison Legal News* reports. In addition, 62 percent, don't believe that more prisons would improve the quality of life in their communities.

Sovereign citizen avoids paying taxes and ends up in contempt

By Lloyd Payne
Journalism Guild Writer

A tax protester has been held in federal prison for contempt of court more than a year after he refused to respond to an IRS summons, the *Dallas News* reports.

Federal court reported the summons was issued by U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor ordering Ronald Conner, a 55-year-old truck driver, to answer questions about his finances and provide records to begin the collection process.

Conner claims he is a sovereign citizen. He says, "I won't give them nothing now that I know the truth."

Sovereign citizen ideology is a part of an anti-government movement rising out of opposition to federal income taxes, according to the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism,

The IRS says Connor owes more than \$174,000, the *News* reported. The summons declares his tax liabilities are for the years 2005 and 2007-2013.

Federal law sets an

18-month limit for how long someone can be jailed for civil contempt.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tami C. Parker said she would like Conner's jail stay to continue. She cited cases in which people have spent years behind bars for civil contempt including one in New York federal court in which an investment manager sat behind bars for seven years for refusing to turn over \$15 million in gold and antiques.

"It isn't clear from the government's paper how it can seek continued incarceration after the 18-month period has lapsed," said Paul A. Avon, a Florida attorney whose specialty is civil contempt cases. Connor says he has nothing to lose.

He was divorced in 2012. The divorce decree says he was awarded 50 percent of his ex-wife's retirement benefits from Southwest Airlines, a 2006 semi-trailer, and a 1994 Lexus sedan.

Court reporter Kevin Kause said, "The amount of money is considered small compared to most civil con-

tempt cases that involved substantial assets like divorce cases and other lawsuits."

Sherita Knight, one of Conner's ex-wives, said while they were married he never had anti-government or anti-tax views.

"This is crazy," she said, "It's bizarre."

"Conner has the right to refuse to testify against himself," said Matthew Orwig, former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas,

On the witness stand, Conner said his position would not change. He answered a few basic questions from prosecutor Parker, then pled the 5th Amendment protection against self-incrimination.

"No one wants to pay taxes. But they were legally assessed," Parker stated.

She says the U.S. attorney's office is not contemplating criminal charges against Conner, and they just want him to cooperate. She said the civil contempt law would lose its teeth if someone is allowed to ignore a court order.

Nevada Supreme Court rules prisoners not receiving healthy food

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Prisoners of Nevada filed a lawsuit claiming food provided by the state is unhealthy. The state Supreme Court agreed with prisoners in their ruling that prison officials are not providing a healthy diet, according to *NevadaAppeal.com*.

Prisoner Robert Stockmeier's lawsuit contended corrections officials failed to report that the diet wasn't healthy, failed to show standards for determining nutritional adequacy, including

the recommended daily allowances and other standards set by the Food and Nutrition board of the National Academy of Medicine. The record indicates prisoners were served excessive levels of fat and sodium.

The jurists also rejected prison officials' argument that sodium is a necessary nutrient and therefore higher levels of sodium do not render the prison diet inadequate. The ruling stated, "It is plain that a nutritionally adequate diet is not simply one that has some quantity of necessary macronutrients

as many nutrients that are necessary in small quantities are dangerous in large quantities."

Previous court orders required the state's chief medical officer to report proper standards were followed. The justices ruled the state is not showing a standard was followed.

The court further ruled the chief medical officer did not comply with statutory reporting requirements and "failed to show that its reporting applied any standards in assessing nutritional adequacy."

Green Team recruits two men off the yard to beat Warriors

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

A road closure left the Green Team with only five players, including the 65-year old Don Smith, for a full court game schedule against the San Quentin Warriors, so they picked up two guys off the prison yard and won 99-92.

"I was worried coming in with four guys," David Liss, who played college basketball for Pomona, said.

A shutdown highway left Prison Sport Ministry's Green Team players Kevin Kelly, Antoine Maddox and Charles Lowery stuck in traffic with no way to reach San Quentin State Prison in time for the game.

Alex Nesbitt a 25-year old from the Southside of Chicago who played for Harvard University, came in for the first time with the Green Team. They also had 6-foot-8 Robert Allen along with Dan Wohl, who played pro in Israel.

Meanwhile, the San Quentin Warriors' starters warmed up in anticipation. For Tevin



Green Team's Dan Wohl shooting a jumper over SQ Warrior Allan McIntosh with Jonte Washington (white shirt) looking to board

Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Fournette it would be one of his final three games as a Warrior.

"This my last season; I go home in January," Fournette said.

Both Jonte Washington and Marcel Williams showed they may have what it takes to replace Fournette next season. Washington is 6-foot-7, 288 pounds and loves to shoot

threes. Williams is young and all muscle. Neither play on the SQ Warriors, but both were on Intramural League teams. Williams won the 2018 Championship with a team called Apply Pressure.

The Green Team picked up Washington and Williams without ever seeing them ball before.

"Basketball is a common language," Wohl said. "We dapped each other and went to work."

The Green Team took off in the first quarter and held a 49-42 lead by the end of the second.

"We got outplayed," Warriors vet Allan McIntosh said. "They out rebounded us and their second chance buckets killed us today."

At half time Annie Smith, Don's wife, delivered an inspirational message.

"God will give you back what you have lost," Annie passionately said. "Sometimes it may not look like

what you thought but what God gives us is so much better."

She also remarked that coming into the prison with her husband, a sponsor of the Prison Sports Ministry program, helps her appreciate her life, even when she's stuck in traffic.

"Brian's face pops up when I want to complain," Annie said.

She referred to what Brian Asey, general manager of the SQ basketball program who is serving multiple life sentences, always says. He would appreciate a chance to parole and experience many things free people gripe about.

When the game resumed, the Green Team took a 17 point lead. Liss lit the Warriors up from three point land, making three in the quarter and six in the game. Williams scored in the paint on missed shots and going to the rack. Washington held down the boards.

Wohl had the highlight play of the game with a ball-fake look off while he Europe-stepped passed two defenders to reach the rack for a layup which made the score 74-57 with 3:16 left in the third.

In the fourth quarter, the Warriors charged back. Jamai Johnson made a hook shot to bring his team with 6 at 84-78 with 7:30 left in regulation.

Fournette scored back-to-back baskets on offense, but the Green Team answered both times, which kept the Warriors at least six points away.

Fournette led the Warriors with 25 points but Williams led all scorers with 26 points. Wohl added 24 and Liss made the third Green Team player who scored in the twenties with 21 points. Washington added 16.

"This shows the Warriors they really need me," Washington said. "Those 16 points could have been on their side."



Anthony Ammons defending Marcel Williams

Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

New SQ Athletic Association sees sports as a rehab program

For decades, sports at San Quentin involving outside community members have been separate recreational programs. Now two incarcerated men have a vision to unite the platforms under one banner – the San Quentin Athletic Association – to get sports recognized as more than a game.

"We're trying to get organized sports recognized by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as a rehabilitative program because we have a lot of examples of people whose lives were changed by sports," San Quentin Athletic Association (SQAA) founder Brian Asey said.

The administration fully supports the sports programs at San Quentin. Over 40 teams were cleared to play baseball at San Quentin this year alone, according to SQAA co-founder Branden Riddel-Terrell.

While CDCR awards time off a person's sentence for taking certain programs, playing organized sports isn't counted as a program that can earn good-time credits.

Riddel-Terrell and Asey seek to take the necessary steps for sports to have recognition as a rehabilitation program.

"In order to do that we need bylaws and structure," Asey said.

The SQAA structure includes representative from

each sport.

Riddel-Terrell added, "Organization and structure, we believe, will create more attention on ways we can better the sport program as a whole."

In the sports program at San Quentin on any given weekend between March-Nov. people from the community venture onto the Lower Yard to play basketball, baseball, tennis, soccer or flag football, softball or run track.

Sometimes former pro athletes are among the visitors like former Oakland Raider Quarterback Andrew Walters. Actor Casey Affleck has played baseball twice at San Quentin. Plus NBA All-stars Draymond Green and Kevin Durant visited as well for the annual game against the Golden State Warriors staff that has included playing against former NBA pros turned coaches.

Many SQ athletes report that interacting with the community while still in prison makes them feel like part of society and aids in their rehabilitation.

"You have people out there willing to give us their support – it gives you back your humanity," Isaiah Love, a former SQ Warrior guard, said. "It's more reinforcement to be accountable and stay out of trouble."

"You have people out there willing to give us their support – it gives you back your humanity," Isaiah Love, a former SQ Warrior guard, said. "It's more reinforcement to be accountable and stay out of trouble."

SQ tennis player Paris Williams said, "Tennis changed my outlook on life. I learned

to humble myself, because on the court there is no racism. I learned to socialize because as an outlaw, you don't socialize, you live like a chameleon."

"I also think that sports here is a perfect way for the men to utilize what they learn in the self-help programs at a game time speed," Asey said. "I confronted my issues by playing sports."

The idea for SQAA started with a conversation between Asey and Riddel-Terrell on the pitcher's mound about how the various sports activities on the yard could be improved. Both believe sports has a potential beyond just hanging out with awesome people.

The two came up with the concept of creating the SQAA with a focus on sports' rehabilitative aspects, something they both believe in.

Asey, who's 52-years old, played for the SQ Kings before retiring and taking on the role of general manager of the SQ basketball program. He has completed several self-help groups and is currently pursuing his associates degree while filming videos for SQTV, including a documentary called, "Growing Up Behind Bars".

Riddel-Terrell is also a college student and a mentor for a program that teaches social justice called, Coalition for Justice. By day he's in the building maintenance program.

Riddel-Terrell, who also plays for both the San Quentin A's baseball team and the All-Madden Flag Football, believes creating a structure for the sports program will bring it more attention as a whole but it's not about controlling the teams.

"We don't dictate what teams do; we're just here to support," Riddel-Terrell said.

SQAA could bring balance to programs that need more support than others. He said baseball cleared over 400 people to play on the Field of Dreams in 2018 while All-Madden cleared 12 for flag football. Asey and Riddel-Terrell see uniting the programs as a way to get more support for the programs that don't have as many volunteers.

Already, Kevin Rumon, a coach for the 1000 Mile Running Club at SQ, has helped out the baseball program by escorting teams in, that otherwise would not have entered the prison without a sponsor cleared by the administration.

Several sports sponsors are also on board including Mike Krammer (Baseball Director); Frank Ruona (1000 Mile Running Club); Teohn Conner (Basketball program) and Andrew Crawford (soccer), according to Riddel-Terrell.

The SQAA's long term vision is to see a student athletic program with the Prison University Project, which



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN
Branden Riddel-Terrell

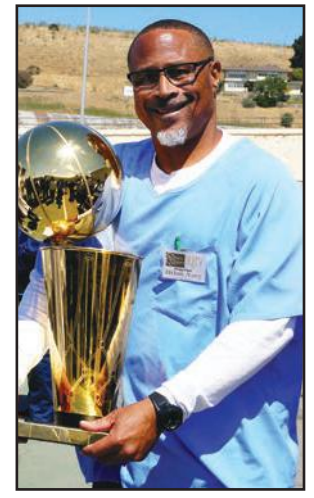


Photo by Harold Meeks
Brian Asey holding the 2018 NBA Trophy

provides an in classroom college education to the men at San Quentin.

"I've been in 11 different prisons and I have come across some terrific athletics," Asey said. "Image if they all were here, but that couldn't be for just sports. It would have to be a scholarship, you would have to go to school."

While they are still here, they hope to have the whole yard redone.

"We're trying to get the basketball court get done, the whole track, grass, the tennis court -- everything," Asey said.

Riddel-Terrell added, "With the people that have shown a little bit of interest,

from Tom Brady, Michael Strahan, Bob Myers and Kevin Durant, the sky is the limit."

Both agree that donations can help but donating time is what the SQAA needs most.

"We need volunteers, sponsors, people that could spread the word and invest their time or some form of donation," Riddel-Terrell said.

Asey added, "We need people to give their time. I never knew how valuable time was until I received multiple life sentences."

To volunteer to be a sponsor for the sports programs at San Quentin email CoachK.Bhatt at kuntal.bhatt@cdcr.ca.gov.

—Rahsaan Thomas

SQ All-Madden Football making best of short season

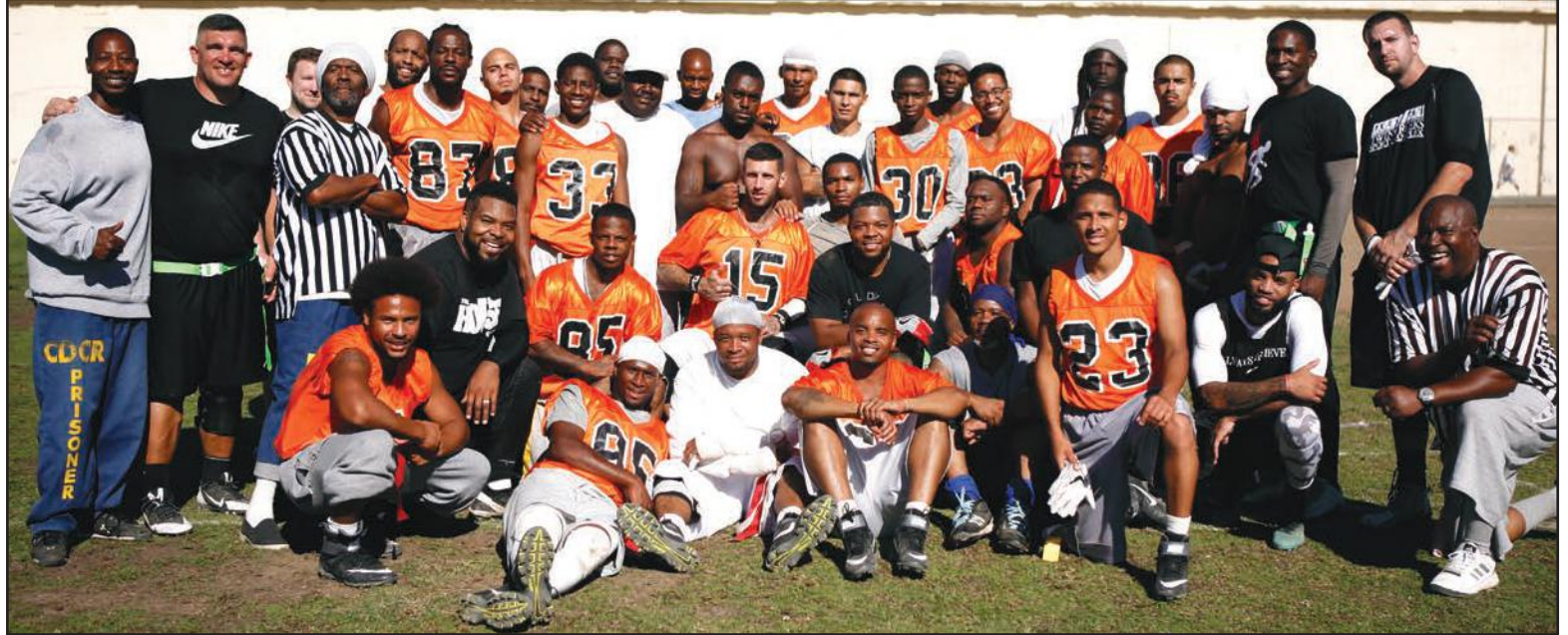
By Troy Smith
Journalism Guild Writer

For the third time in three weeks, the visiting Chosen flag football team needed to borrow players to field a squad against San Quentin's All Madden. On Nov. 3 the home team gave the Chosen a 44-20 beat down worthy of crime-scene tape.

"San Quentin has absolutely no shortage of athletes to fill the roster but this year has been difficult getting teams from the outside in to compete against," All-Madden Head Coach Royce Rose said.

This year, the baseball program has cleared about 400 community volunteers to come play at San Quentin – the flag football program cleared 14 according to Branden Riddel-Terrell, the quarterback for All Madden and shortstop/pitcher for the SQ A's.

On Oct. 20, three weeks before this game, the Chosen



All Madden flag football team (orange uniforms) posing with The Chosen (Black) on the San Quentin Lower Yard

Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

came into the prison with only four players. They picked several San Quentin residents to make a team and

lost 14-8.

On Oct. 28, The Chosen showed up with two players and again had to recruit on

the spot. They won 20-18 when The Chosen's Cornell Swain sacked All-Madden's quarterback in the end zone

for a safety with only seconds left on the game clock.

For the Nov. 3, The Chosen came down the hill with eight players but still picked four reserves for the eight-on-eight flag football game.

Normally All-Madden plays about eight games a season against different community teams but this year has been a struggle. Hungry for a game, All-Madden made the best of it, playing like it was the last game of the season.

The Chosen showed up with Myles Gates who played football while at San Francisco City College and professionally in Europe. (O.J. Simpson went to SFCC before transferring to USC)

What started as another competitive game wasn't close as the point difference suggests. With All-Madden at full strength and The Chosen scrambling for players. All-Madden defense shut down Chosen with four sacks and five interceptions.

All-Madden cornerback Vincent Wilson picked off The Chosen twice, returning one for a 27-yard score.

"Takeaways and making plans is all I think about," Wilson said.

With the game already decided near the end of the second half, Tyrell Pryce Sr. picked-sixed Gates for 70 yards.

Despite the score, the game ended with smiles and handshakes.



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

All Madden's Montrell McDuffie trying to break a "tackle"



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

(87) making a jumping catch for the touchdown

Apply Pressure win Intramural Basketball League Championship

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

After five grueling full-court basketball games, Apply Pressure emerged as the champions of the 2018 Intramural Basketball League season.

"We came together," Coach Sholly Kehinde said after winning the finals over the Dream Team. This year was his first time as a head coach of an Intramural League basketball team.

The Intramural League follows a format similar to the NBA. Incarcerated men formed eight teams and were scheduled to play each other twice each throughout a 16 game season. The squads with the best records in each conference got seeded high in the playoff rounds. After

reaching the finals, a best of five game series decided who would be crowned the champions.

The Dream Team, coached by Robert Lee, who referees the San Quentin Warriors games, made it to the finals to face Apply Pressure.

Cesar McDowell assistant coached Lee's team made up of mostly SQ Warriors veteran players Allan McIntosh, Anthony Ammons, Jamal Green, Kahlil Dallas and Montrell Vines. Also on the team were former Warrior and Current SQ King Center Jason Robinson along with Robert "Big Smooth" Polzin, Lavelle Gordon and Dontay Turner. Gordon was the only member of the team under 30.

Coach Kehinde had one Warrior on his team, Tevin

"Cutty" Fournette and the current Head Coach Rafeal Cuevas who suited up as a player. Kehinde also had former Warrior Cornell "Fatality" Shields who made the game winning basket and steal in the 2017 SQ Warriors win over the visiting Golden State staffer squad. Apply Pressure, mostly made up of young players, also included Will Nguyen, Rickiane Harris, Marcel Williams, Reese Chavarry, Tamiko Carter and Kai Williams who played for Berkeley High School. The assistant coach, Kyraill Johnson, is also a young man.

Game one set the tone for the series. The Oct. 7 game went into quadruple overtime. The Dream Team won in the fourth extra five-minute period after a turnover on a fast break cost Apply

Pressure the game. Veteran Warrior player Allan McIntosh led the Dream Team and all scorers with 40 points to a 88-85.

Apply Pressure tied the series in game two on Oct. 14. with a 55-44 win. Again McIntosh led all scorers with 21 points but no one else on the Dream Team scored in double digits. Meanwhile, on Apply Pressure's Tevin Fournette scored 16, Cornell Shields 15 and Marcel Williams added 10.

The Dream Team took game three on Oct. 21 on the back of McIntosh scoring 36 points followed by Ammons with 17. They won 73-69 and needed one more win to take the championship.

"Game four was the toughest; they had us two to one," Harris said. "It was win or go home."

Shields went on one in the Oct. 28 game four. With his team down five points, he took over in the second half, scoring on ten straight points to give his team 37-36, one point lead.

"They can't stop you Corn," Paul Oliver said from the sidelines as he watched the game.

Then the rest of Apply Pressure came alive. Carter nailed a three-pointer followed by Harris with a layup and Nguyen with a floater than an assist to Shields for another basket. Shields finished to lead all scorers with 21 points, 8 rebounds and 4 steals. McIntosh finished with 12.

With the game four score 55-43 and two minutes left on the clock, the Dream Team conceded.

Game five came down

to whether McIntosh and Ammons could beat a complete team. In the first half, the Dream Team jumped ahead 5-0, led by Ammons who scored four points.

Apply Pressure responded with three pointers. Fournette nailed one trey and Kai Williams made two more. The half ended with Apply Pressure leading, 22-19.

Ammons had 9 points followed by Vines with six, while McIntosh only scored 5 in the first half.

In the second half with 17 minutes left in the game, Apply Pressure had a scare. Starting point guard Kai Williams went down on a strain ankle. He had to sit out for the rest of the game, but he wasn't worried.

"I knew they could pull it off; our backups are starters," he said.

In his place went in Nguyen who won the Intramural League championship last year on the team Kingdom Warriors.

McIntosh came to life in the second half for the Dream Team, but Ammons went cold. Meanwhile, Apply Pressure got contributions from everyone on the team.

Nguyen nailed a corner three. Marcel Williams followed with a layup, that put Apply Pressure up 46-42.

With 1 minute and 40 seconds left on the clock, Ammons scored to put his team within two at 49-47.

With Apply Pressure killing the clock, the Dream Team employed an intentional foul strategy.

Shields made two free-throws, increasing the lead.

McIntosh responded with a floater over the defender for

the and none, as he missed the free throw but brought his team to within two at 51-49 with 1:16 left on the clock.

Fournette answered with a jumper, putting his team back up four.

Ammons shot a three that clacked off the rim with 53 seconds left.

"And that's y'all season," remarked Gee Wilson, an Apply Pressure advocate.

Wilson went on the court and celebrated the win a bit too early.

The referee gave Apply Pressure a technical foul for the premature party.

"This is over with; I could back flip and cartwheel on the court and it wouldn't matter," Wilson said.

McIntosh made the free tech shot, which kept hope alive. However, Fournette closed the game out with four straight clutch free-throws.

Fournette led Apply Pressure with 14 points, Shields 10, Harris 9 and Kia Williams 7.

"They're real competitive," Harris said. "They complicated this win. They're good at switching their game up, they have shooters and they know how to play the paint."

McIntosh finished game five with 19 points and Ammons added 16. The next highest scorer was Vines with 6 points.

League Commissioner Ishmael Freelon named McIntosh and Fournette co-MVPs of the season and Williams MVP of the finals.

For Carter the win meant going home on top.

"This was my farewell season," Carter said.

He paroled four days later a champion.

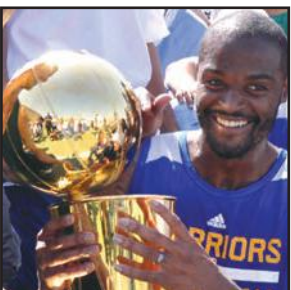


Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Cornell "Fatality" Shields



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Rafael Cuevas

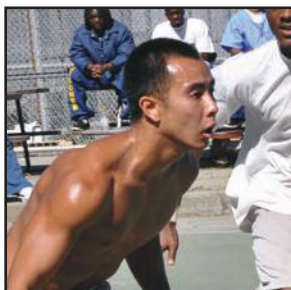


Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Will Nguyen



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Tevin Fournette



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Kia Williams

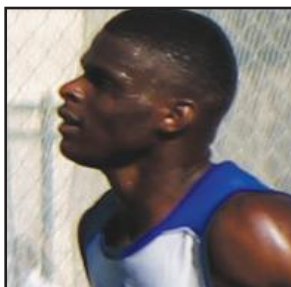


Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Marcel Williams

Returning citizens get skills for a successful reentry



Students from the 2018 class of Prison to Employment Connection

Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN



Prison to Employment Facilitators Gabrielle Nicolet, Diana Williams and Susan Broman-Smith

Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN



Joyce Guy speaking

Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN



Erin O'Connor interviewing with Eliery Graves

Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

PEC

"I feel it's a wonderful experience and it reaffirms my belief in humanity that these employers are willing to give us a second chance," said inmate Edwin Hutchinson, 58.

James Boster from District Council 16, Apprentice Program of Northern California, said he is formerly incarcerated and understands what the men are going through. He also attends career and job fairs on the outside, "to give people a better future."

"By coming to programs like this, I'm able to give back," said Boster. "People that come from struggle are more humble. I'd like to give all these inmates a big congrats for their accomplishments, and to the volunteers. I respect what they do."

"I have to admit, I volunteer for selfish reasons," said Susan Broman-Smith. "The transformation that I get to see (in the men), to watch the confidence in themselves." She also volunteers at California Reentry where she met PEC Executive Director Diana Williams.

"I come here because I want the inmates to understand people want to see them succeed," said Malcolm Gisien. He's a wealth manager and financial adviser. "We value everybody."

Mishcha Kubancik has attended several PEC sessions. She is owner of Every Dog Has Its Daycare. Each time she attends employer day, she emphasizes that her employees "have to love animals." She hired a 35-year-old man who paroled from prison. He's been employed with her for about six months. "Every day he comes in smiling," she said. "He loves his job."

Lee Conley, 59, has been

incarcerated since 1996. He said he is comfortable talking with employers and enjoys their feedback. "It's good practice on resumes and interviews."

"This is what PEC is all about. It's about connecting with people"

Joyce Guy represented Job Resource Center, a construction, union and apprenticeship program in West Oakland. "My most successful individuals have been formerly incarcerated who served more than five years," said Guy. "Their discipline is different. They remind me of people who've been in the military."

"I've never really been gainfully employed," said inmate Erin O'Connor. "Everything I've done (in prison) for the last decade has led me to this point." He was recently found suitable for parole after serving more than two decades in prison.

At the end of the interviews, there was a Q&A session between inmates and employers. The inmates thanked Williams, the volunteers and all of the employers for coming in and offered random comments:

"It's been a total boost to my confidence."

"You keep us believing in ourselves."

"The feedback I got was incredible."

"You guys really made us feel like family."

Inmate and PEC facilitator Dwight Kennedy told the guests, "This is what PEC is all about. It's about



Robert Frye speaking at the graduation

Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN



Malcolm Gisien talking with student Lee Conley

Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

connecting with people."

Afterward, the men gave the employers and PEC volunteers a standing ovation.

"It's exactly why we do what we do," said Williams.

PEC volunteer Gabrielle Nicolet commented, "I believe that everyone deserves a chance -- a chance to prove they're not their mistakes; that they're worthy and human. I show up every week because I want them to know that."

The men all shook hands with the guests and thanked them again for attending as they exited the chapel.

Two weeks later a formal graduation ceremony was held in the chapel. There, Williams greeted the men. "Hi everyone," she said.

Then she shouted: "Job!" The inmates yelled back: "Ready!" The exchange was repeated several times in military cadence: "Job!" and "Ready!"

Later, Williams asked the men for feedback.

One inmate responded, "It may not seem like I have low self-esteem, but I do." He explained that because of that, he did not strive for good jobs. He noted the Prison to Employment Connection helped him to be able to articulate his values and experience.

The men discussed presenting themselves to different employers and how they learned to tailor their interviews to different people. Many said they had to learn that.

"It's been a long time since I had a job and it's good to know I still have it," one inmate said about his interviewing skills.

Another inmate said the prison system needs to understand that Williams and the volunteers who run PEC "are needed here...I was nervous but it (employer day)

brought back my skills." He said he was a truck driver for 18 years, without an accident. "You guys brought out in me what I had in me all the time."

Another inmate said "I've done some spectacular things in my life. One moment in time doesn't define me."

"The reasons I do this is because I get inspired by all of you," said Williams. She added that she likes to see the change in the men over the 16 weeks.

Williams said PEC will start tracking men on the outside. This is because organizations that support it want information and data on PEC participants' employment success on parole.

According to Williams, there were 248 interviews done on employer day. The men received copies of their interview assessments from the employers.

The rating system was 5 excellent, 4 above average, 3

average, 2 below average, 1 poor.

Numbers show 35 percent of the men had a score of five; 44 percent received a score of four; 18 percent received three; and three percent scored a two. No one received a one. The numbers showed 97 percent of the men who interviewed did as well or better than people on the outside.

Robert Frye, 50, is formerly incarcerated. He served 25 years on a term of 26-to-life, the last 14 years at San Quentin where he paroled from nearly five years ago. He attended the PEC graduation to give the men encouragement and tips for success upon their reentry to society. "You gotta keep your options open," he said.

The ninth Prison to Employment Connection session is scheduled to begin in February 2019. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the San Quentin housing units.