

San Quentin News



WRITTEN BY PRISONERS – ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE



VOL. 2019 NO.3

March 2019 Edition 114

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 114



Photo Courtesy of Marlene McCurtis

Performance of Women Theater Work at LA Trade-Tech Center

Storytelling: bridging the divide between prison and the free world

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The “right road lost/FOUND” is a play based on the memories, life stories and experiences of five formerly incarcerated men and women who navigate their personal paths through reentry into the free world.

The production had its debut at the Los Angeles Trade-Technical

College (LATTC), a community college in South Los Angeles. It was also performed at the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

The performance piece is based on the writing of Antoinette Phillips, Pam Torrence, Bree Cortum, Anthony Jenkins Sr. and Milo McCollough.

See *Storytelling* on Page 12

Governor Gavin Newsom halts the state’s death penalty

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

California Governor Gavin Newsom halts the state’s death penalty with an Executive Order rousing comments and opinions from sup-

porters and opponents, including some inmates.

“I did this with a heavy heart,” said Newsom in an interview on *KRON 4*, a Bay Area television channel. “I did this with the victims in mind.” The order was met with scorn from sup-

porters of the death penalty who called the blanket reprieves an abuse of power.” *NPR* reported.

Marc Klass said it’s a “Trumpian” thing to do and that the governor is making the death penalty all about himself. He said “the people have spoken and people like Richard Allen Davis have no reason to breathe the same air as everyone else.” Davis was convicted of murdering Klass’ daughter in the 1990s.

Klass said people in California support the death penalty but Newsom doesn’t because it doesn’t support his personal philosophy. “I think I’ll probably die before (Davis) does,” he said. “I’d like to see him die. I’d like to see all of them executed.” He called those on Death Row “the dregs of society.”

In a Tweet, President Trump said Newsom is “defying voters,” and called the those condemned to die “stone-cold killers.”

Newsom said the death penalty is used unfairly on people of color and it has wasted taxpayers’ money, a cost, according to Newsom, that has cost taxpayers \$5 billion. He noted there are currently 737 men on Death Row at San Quentin, and the state has only executed 13 people since the death penalty was reinstated in 1977. Since then, he said 120 people have died on death row by either suicide or natural causes.



Photo by Eddie Herena SQN

California’s Governor Gavin Newsom

See *Fgcvj 'Rgpcn* on Page 4



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

PUP student Isaiah Love presenting his criminal justice reform idea to philanthropists

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative holds criminal justice workshop at SQ

By Jesse Vasquez
Editor in Chief

The Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) sponsored a Criminal Justice Reform workshop with the Prison University Project (PUP) at San Quentin during the fall semester.

The “Criminal Justice Reform, Philanthropy, and Social Change” workshop was designed to include incarcerated voices in the decisions that affect them.

The framework for the non-credit

college workshop revolved around participatory action, which seeks to ensure that the people directly affected by social problems lead and inform the efforts to solve them.

“When it comes to criminal justice reform, philanthropists and policy makers need to hear from the incarcerated because you guys understand the problem personally,” said Jire Bademosi, Social Advocate with CZI. “It’s impossible to fix a problem without understanding the intricate details and the sys-

temic issues underneath it.”

Amy Jamgochian, program director of PUP; Jesse Rothman, a former PUP instructor; and Bademosi determined that the workshop would:

- Give participants an understanding of power dynamics
- Provide students an overview of the current role of philanthropy in promoting reform within the criminal justice system

See on *CZI* Page 10

Curb Service shares truth, harmony and love

By Joe Garcia
Staff Writer

From an Oakland street corner to San Francisco’s “Tenderloin” district to San Quentin State Prison, the music of freestyle collective Curb Service screams of power, truth, harmony and love—lots of love.

They arrived at the prison on Feb. 22, six men and one woman who would soon erupt from their quiet demeanors to become superstars for an hour and a half in SQ’s Chapel B.

“I could feel the energy when I walked through the gate,” said Kalin

Freeman, who goes by the stage name “KJ Focus.” He’s the high-voltage saxophonist.

During the band’s warm-up and mic check, everyone stopped what they were doing to listen while Freeman went off on drums and Curb Service’s young “Drummer-boy” Aaron Davis riffed an impromptu bass line.

David Chapman, one of their two managers, smiled and said, “See that right there—that’s the freestyle vibe we all try and emulate. Everyone in Curb Service gets down like that.”

See *CURB* on Page 9



Photo by Eddie Herena for San Quentin News

Rob Woods, Aaron Davis and Chris Balderas on stage performing

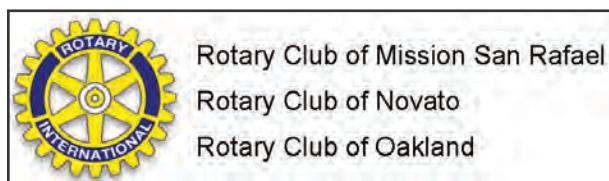
San Quentin News is written and produced by prisoners. We are supported solely by grants and donations from the outside community. To make a donation, visit our website at: sanquentinnews.com or send a tax-deductible check or money order payable to:



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!



Addiction Recovery Counseling Director moves on

Rick Baez leaves San Quentin after 13 years

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Recovering addicts in San Quentin said goodbye to long-time volunteer Rick Baez in the Addiction Recovery Counseling (ARC) program.

"A lot of people in society tend to think people in prison are throwaways, especially those with addiction issues, but that hasn't been my experience working here," said Baez, 74, director of the ARC program.

"It has been my experience that men with the opportunity to make better choices do; this is what I tell people when they ask me."

Baez has volunteered since 2006 at San Quentin.

"I've known Rick since 2009, when I first participated in this program," said Terry Burton, an ARC graduate.

"When I heard that he was retiring, I had to thank him in person for his 13 years of service to the San Quentin community and for being instrumental in my own recovery."

Baez's work with addicts is personal; he has been in recovery from alcoholism since 1979.

"I started drinking alcohol when I was 14 years old and became an alcoholic by 19. It wasn't until I was 35 years old that I stopped, with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"I used to drink to make my problems go away, but it only prolonged the problem until it got worse and worse until I couldn't ignore it anymore," Baez added.

"I will forever cherish the memories that I have made in San Quentin,"

From the age of 19 to 35, Baez experienced three failed marriages and the loss of job opportunities as a result of his drinking.

During those years Baez would begin the day by drinking beer for breakfast, wine for lunch, and whiskey for dinner.

"If I wasn't drinking, I would go into withdrawal. I would sweat, have the shakes, and I wouldn't be

able to go to work," said Baez in an interview.

Treatment for his alcoholism came from a frequent shopper at Baez's grocery store.

"A guy who was in recovery often came in for coffee and donuts for his AA group, and one day, he asked me if I was still on the sauce, and I said, 'Yeah.' Seeing him made me aware that recovery was possible. So I joined an AA group," said Baez.

"I began with three meetings a day, got a sponsor and worked the steps, and I have been in recovery since then."

After several years of sobriety, Baez took the advice of a close friend and started school to become an addiction counselor.

In 1982, Baez began interning at the Phoenix outpatient program in Dublin, Calif., and within three years he became the director of the program.

Baez eventually retired as director of substance abuse at John Muir Hospital in Concord in 2009.

"Since my volunteer work to oversee the ARC program in 2006, it has always been my goal and role to mentor

the inmate counselors to become professionals by teaching them the necessary skills to enter the field of addiction when they get out," said Baez.

In response, Edward Scott, 50, an addiction counselor at ARC said, "When I started this program as a trainee I didn't get along with Rick because of my own issues of inferiority, but he has helped me overcome my fear, and today I have become better for it."

"I will always cherish the lessons that he has taught me."

Baez isn't paid and travels more than 100 miles to get to San Quentin and back home.

"What inspires me to get up each morning to drive through the traffic to get here is the results I see. There are guys who I have worked with that have served upwards of 40 years and got out and become successful; this is what inspires me."

"I will forever cherish the memories that I have made in San Quentin," Baez added.

Baez will retire to Oregon with his dog Ivy.



Michael Kirkpatrick, Nou Pang Thao, Edward Scott, Rick Baez, Quinten Walker and John Lam

Photo by Rahsaan Thomas

More job opportunities opening up for formerly incarcerated

By Amir Shabazz
Journalism Guild Writer

More job opportunities are opening up for parolees and others with criminal records, according to *CNBC.com*.

The Prison Policy Initiative estimates unemployment among ex-felons at 27 percent, but some corporations and human resource executives show signs of interest

in hiring former inmates, according to a survey by the Society for Human Resource Management, (SHRM).

"This is not a problem of aspirations; it's a structural problem, involving discrimination and a lack of opportunities made available to people who have been to prison," said Lucius Couloute, an analyst at the Prison Policy Initiative. "It really takes

employers who are willing to let go of their biases in pursuit not only of equality but of the best candidates."

Eliminating bias and destigmatizing criminal history is a priority at Greyston, a bakery in Yonkers, N.Y., that makes brownies for companies such as Ben & Jerry's, Whole Foods and Delta Airlines. Greyston was founded by a Buddhist

monk and uses an "open hiring" model where anyone who makes it through an apprenticeship program can get a job.

Former drug dealer Dion Drew works for Greyston. Drew got out of prison in 2008 and started out as an apprentice at \$7.15 an hour. Now he is paid \$25 an hour and acts as an ambassador for open hiring. He even did a Ted Talk on the subject with Greyston's CEO Mike Brady.

There are two key factors to being hired: A verifiable work history paired with some level of education or training post-conviction, which indicates personal growth while incarcerated. Drew believes his success stems from the decisions he made while incarcerated.

"I set my goals and plans while I was upstate," Drew told *CNBC*. "I wanted to save

money the right way, to have a family. I wanted to put the smile back on my mom's face."

Greyston actively tries to interest other companies in their approach through a project, the Center for Open Hiring. It trains companies in investing in training rather than spending time and money trying to avoid "red flags."

Changing employers' attitudes toward working with ex-felons is still complicated. While companies may be open to the idea, only five percent actively recruit parolees, according to the SHRM report.

The federal government offers a tax incentive to employers who hire and retain ex-felons, veterans and others with significant employment barriers. If the employee works 120 hours a year, the company can claim a tax

credit of 25 percent of its first year's wages and 40 percent if they work 400 hours.

A study by the RAND Institute found that such incentives are productive. Another important incentive is being able to recover staffing-agency fees if the new hire doesn't work out. Or, in the case of ex-felons, the agencies find a replacement for free, if the ex-offender isn't successful on the job.

New Jersey-based consultant Eric Mayo says some well-known minimum wage employers are open to hiring parolees. They include McDonald's, *CNBC's* parent company Comcast, and Atlantic City casinos

"I encourage people to apply for every job they feel qualified for," Mayo said. "Even without a felony record, looking for a job is a numbers game."

Some states seeking input on wrong parole decisions

By Noel Scott
Journalism Guild Writer

Some states are still seeking input from the wrong people on parole decisions a Prison Policy Initiative report maintains.

The report says the wrong people are prosecutors and crime victims.

In California, prosecutors and victims must be notified when a person is being considered for parole. Yet the only information they can provide to parole commissioners is about the crime itself and who that person was, not the individual's rehabilitative efforts.

Victims and prosecutors should have a right to be heard but the information they provide is not helpful in determining if the person has been rehabilitated, writes Jorge Renaud in the Oct. 25, 2018 report.

This is important given a 2016 survey commissioned by the Alliance on Safety and Justice. The survey indicated that "60 percent of victims preferred shorter prison sentences and more spending on prevention and rehabilitation to longer prison sentences," Renaud reported.

The report also showed that victims were "three times more likely to prefer" accountability through options other than prison, like "rehabilitation, mental health, drug treatment and community supervision." They also believed that prison did more to create criminals than to rehabilitate them.

Renaud argues it is "counterintuitive" to seek the opinions of prosecutors and victims during parole hearings, given their goal of putting offenders behind bars. Yet some criminal justice

experts still endorse this antiquated process. Many reformers believe that parole decisions should be left to professionals who know how to identify transformation, psychological growth and increased maturity.

The American Law Institute has recommended a "second-look" provision to review the cases of incarcerated individuals who have spent "at least 15 years in prison," reports Renaud. Still, the institute also recommends notifying prosecutors and victims of these proceedings, undermining the reform effort.

"Prosecutorial overreach" is partially responsible for mass incarceration, reformers believe. Restorative justice, at the other end of the spectrum, offers a progressive approach that allows survivors of violence to heal, by confronting, meeting and talking with those who have wounded them.

Sentencing greatly varies between federal district judges

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

A new report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission revealed that sentencing for individuals who have committed the same crimes can greatly vary between federal district judges, according to a *VICE News* article.

Judges in the same city may issue sentences that vary as much as 63 percent. For the most part, judges are tending to give out shorter sentences.

The discretion of sentenc-

ing has been returned to the judges since federal statutes with mandatory sentencing guidelines were gutted in part by the key 2005 *Supreme Court decision, U.S. v. Booker (530 US 220)*, according to the report.

The Booker decision gave judges the discretion to issue sentences that are harsher or more lenient than the guidelines.

The report stated there are still federal guidelines, which reform advocates say are overly harsh, but the Booker decision meant

judges have significantly more discretion to depart or vary from the guidelines and select a sentence outside the range from the guidelines.

According to the Booker decision, the guidelines still serve as "a meaningful benchmark" for judges in federal courts.

"Certain judges are the 'hang 'em high' type, and others are the 'cry me a river type,'" said Doug Berman, a sentencing law expert and professor at Ohio State University's School of Law.

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
Vincent Turner, Staff Writer
David Lê, Staff Writer
David Ditto, Staff Writer
Michael Johnson, 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
Lourdes Cárdenas, 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.

Families band together creating an alliance focused on protecting incarcerated loved ones

By Anthony Manuel
Carvalho
Journalism Guild Writer

Families and friends of prisoners in Florida are joining forces with advocacy groups to create a stronger voice to protect their loved ones' rights against the state's correctional institutions, according to the *Florida Times Union/Jacksonville.com*.

Two groups representing prisoner's rights have focused on two main issues, sentencing reform and administrative policy. The groups have fostered a relationship with families of the incarcerated, getting families organized to participate in the process, to ensure their legacies will include the ability to lead the fight of the incarcerated.

"Visitation is one of those issues that is uniquely understood by the families of the people who are incarcerated. You almost have to be in that position to understand its importance," said Greg Newburn, state policy director of Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM).

That group partnered with Florida Cares, a nonprofit inmate advocacy group that has compiled a vast network of people who never envisioned getting involved with the issues of prison. This network, which includes lawyers, nurses, doctors, teachers, EMTs, firefighters and politicians, enables family members of the incarcerated to have one unified voice.

Denise Rock, who has led

Florida Cares for two years, has created that voice for incarcerated people and their families, which now positions them as a group with political power.

Rock, a former paralegal and criminal defense investigator stated, "The people who had loved ones who are incarcerated, they want to help and they want to get in there and do something, but they don't know what to do."

Rock's group has successfully challenged proposed rule changes by giving the loved ones a platform to voice their objections.

Concurrently, FAMM, a foundational criminal justice reform group that brings years of political experience to influence state capitals, such as Tallahassee, Fla., took notice of

Florida Cares.

Newburn recognized the need to meld the two political activist groups together to address current issues of reform and to organize a long-term strategy. "What we've come to understand is those two issues are not separate...They are two sides of the same coin."

An example of the partnership's strength was seen last year. The groups represented families who objected to the proposed elimination of visits in Florida prisons. The effort prompted the prison system to abandon the change.

Denise Caffo, a board member of Florida Cares, said "Change is going to happen one way or another...The mindset is changing. We just can't give up."

Florida restores voting rights to more than a million

By Leonard F. Brown
Journalism Guild Writer

More than a million former Florida prisoners have regained the right to vote, thanks to a ballot initiative.

As of January, released prisoners could simply fill out the existing application, signing under oath that their voting rights have been restored, reported the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida in an *Associated Press (AP)* article.

The ballot initiative approved in November excludes those convicted of murder or sex offenses, the *AP* noted.

"Voting is one of the most sacred and valuable rights you have as an American. A

population of voters have a second chance to contribute to our communities through voting and getting re-involved in the political process," said Stephen Nodine, who is formerly incarcerated and head of Second Chance Voters organization, reported *PRNews*.

The passage of Amendment 4 means at least 1.4 million former prisoners will be eligible to vote. This can change the dynamic of the battleground state, according to the *AP* article.

"I feel like I'm a United States citizen," said Jerry Armstrong, 45, registering for the first time, reported the *New York Times*.

The state's new governor,

Ron DeSantis, a Republican, has suggested that the amendment could face challenges down the line.

DeSantis said state lawmakers should craft legislation when their session begins in March to define exactly which former felons are now eligible, though the amendment appears to lay that out explicitly, the *New York Times* reported.

"It's not delaying it — the people spoke on it," DeSantis told reporters. "But I think it's got to be implemented the way that the people intended. And I don't think that they wanted to see any sex offenders fall through the cracks."

Former Florida governors, Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist,

enacted rules during their terms that streamlined restoration of voting rights for returning citizens. But when Rick Scott became governor in 2011, he imposed a five-to-seven-year period — depending on their offenses; before a former prisoner could apply to have those rights restored, reported *Huffpost*.

For more information about Second Chance Voters, visit www.secondchancevoter.org.

Currently Californians on probation can vote. Former prisoners who completed parole are also eligible to vote. The state attorney general announced in January that efforts will be made to expand voting rights for the formerly incarcerated.

Coalition For Justice: furthering community reform in prison

By Joe Garcia
Staff Writer

Every six months, new relationships are forged and the power of community becomes renewed through San Quentin's Coalition For Justice (CFJ).

The self-help program's latest cycle produced 23 graduates. These men gathered on Feb. 13 alongside their volunteer facilitators and incarcerated mentors to receive their certificates, celebrate together, and reflect on their personal transformation.

"We don't just teach social justice here," said CFJ President Darnell "Moe" Washington. "What makes this group so different is that we go further and teach about going back to your community and building that community up. That's the best part of what we do."

The graduation ceremony gave every member a chance to speak about what CFJ meant to them. "It's a long, tough process," said inside mentor Royce Rose. "I like to see how it starts off and then see how we came together and became a community—then I can say, 'I watched it happen.'"

"I take away countless things from being involved with you guys," said outside volunteer Nathaniel Moore. "Together, we all get a better understanding of why people think and do the things that they do."

"I'm always learning and building from what you folks say. There's a real reciprocal value in it for me, and I appreciate that."

CFJ's curriculum focuses on seven key forms of justice: procedural, retributive, distributive, transitional, community, restorative, and transformative. Three days each week, volunteers, students and mentors work together to understand how these things connect and define communities as a whole.

Moore chose to speak about "a type of justice which often gets pushed aside—transitional justice." He described how governments, city groups and individuals can all come together to lift and repair society - even after traumatic events, such as a violent race riot, leave a community in social disarray.

"Things that initially seem like far off pipedreams ... can actually happen," stressed Moore.

Maryann O'Sullivan came on board CFJ for this last six-month cycle. As a social justice advocate and volunteer over the years, she continues to address her own personal transformation. "I've learned to face my own racism," she said. "I've seen the layers—it doesn't go away."

"I realized I wasn't listening to people who don't sound like me—you know, 'White and educated'—and I'm embarrassed by it." O'Sullivan gestured toward herself, "I've got all this gray hair, and I'm just learning this now."

Volunteer Bill S. said, "Seeing and hearing you guys reach deep down into your experiences—there's so much wisdom and great inspiration there. Every time one of you shared, I could see it affecting the other people in the group."

Paloma Mathern thanked CFJ for "welcoming me into your community. I feel like I'm living a whole new life by coming in here."

Karen Lovaas has been a driving force behind CFJ for years. "Most prisons do not allow people to sit together and talk the way we talk," she said. "We have to give credit to San Quentin for that, but I want you guys to know—I'm

not here to support prison, I'm here to support you."

Lovaas teaches an undergraduate class, Rhetoric of Criminality and Punishment, at San Francisco State University. Her curriculum includes bringing her SFSU students in to sit and experience CFJ for themselves.

"I was so messed up, I had to be removed from society."

"I was teaching yesterday, and we were talking about you guys," Lovaas said. "You are alive and in the hearts of the people who've met you."

Graduate James Vick proudly held up his certificate for all to see. "This is something I can actually say I've earned," Vick said. "No one can take this away from me."

"I was so messed up, I had to be removed from society. Now I can go to any community and they'll welcome me because I know what to do to be a part of that community. This group taught me how to do that."

Emonte Johnson seemed a bit uncomfortable as he

accepted his certificate and faced the room. "I might be the only young one in here," said the 22-year-old. "I didn't like talking and only started talking near the end. I appreciate all the hard work y'all gave me. I need that."

Henry Gonsalves said, "Now I got the itch to try and make a change. I see now that if it doesn't affect your family, it affects your friends."

Chan Park said CFJ became "the one place I really looked forward to every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I see you guys on the yard," he used Vick as an example, "and I say 'Hi' in a different way than I did before."

"It took me 27 years to find my own humanity—it's something I had to earn. I had to be willing to admit that for a long time during my life I was not a human being."

Kenny Vernon has been a part of CFJ for the last four years and now co-leads a team of 10 incarcerated mentors. Each mentor is responsible for following up and being available to two or three CFJ students during the six-month course.

"Mentorship is all about developing a relationship with these guys and building a friendship along the

way," Vernon said. "That's community."

Bruce "Brother J" Bowman recalled his own journey through CFJ. "When I first decided to become a mentor, I wanted to try and give back something," he said. "But I had no idea how much I was gonna receive."

Mentor John "Yah Yah" Parratt shared this with the graduates: "Life becomes worthwhile when you have worthwhile goals."

Mentor Kahlil Dallas noted that, "I've seen everybody in here make personal progress. Whoever came up with this format—where we cross-check and reference each other's experiences and get to know each other—it's a great idea."

In closing, mentor Richard Zorn said, "Look at it this way, guys: We gave you a little knowledge to go with the wisdom you already have."

CFJ's 2019 graduating class also included: Manny Archibeque, Ralph Arreguin, Armando Hernandez, Brian Holliday, Arthur Jackson, Joshua Jeffords, Johnny Johnson, Don Leschke, Anthony Marzett, Daniel McCoy, Loren Mears, Matthew Medina, Raymond Mosier, Christopher Rigby, Aron Roy, Anthony Satriano, Benjamin Tobin, Cedric Webb and Richard Williams.

Shifting the way we count incarcerated persons

By Aron Roy
Staff Writer

A new law will give California prisoners political power by counting them as residents of their home communities rather than in the communities where they are incarcerated, according to *The Pew Charitable Trusts*.

The practice, which will be implemented after the 2020 census and subsequent redistricting process, is expected to shift political power from conservative rural areas toward more liberal cities.

"It's going to make a big difference, especially in the viability of our African-American state Senate seats," said former state assemblyman Mike Davis.

Davis referred to counting people in heavily African-American communities, instead of state prisons.

Although the law was passed in 2011, the state could not compile the home addresses of incarcerated individuals before the last redistricting cycle.

California will follow oth-

er states such as New York, which began the practice after the 2010 census.

Aleks Kajstura, legal director of the Prison Policy Initiative, explained that before the change in New York, state lawmakers from upstate blocked measures designed to reduce incarceration because their districts benefitted economically from the prison industrial complex.

"Reform happened, but it was much harder and took far longer than it should have," Kajstura said. "You can't have criminal justice reform if lawmakers feel that mass incarceration is how they got their jobs and how they can keep their districts."

In response to the new practice, nine Republican state senators from upstate New York sued, claiming that the shift in political power would constitute political gerrymandering, which is the practice of dividing political districts so as to give one party an advantage.

"I don't understand the logic of counting people where they aren't, where they don't

live," said Betty Little, a Republican state senator from New York who sued. "Counting those who are incarcerated where they once were and may never be again isn't fair to the communities that actually provide the local services, such as water, sewer, emergency responders, health care and courts."

A state judge upheld the New York law, stating that counting the incarcerated population in districts where they are incarcerated "tends to dilute minority voting strength in violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965."

"Counting prisoners at former homes also can help ease prisoners' transition to a productive life, at least symbolically, by keeping those home communities more politically viable and represented in state legislatures," said Sandra Cunningham, a New Jersey state senator sponsoring a similar bill in her state.

"This is a good start in giving [prisoners] a stake in our society once they are released," Cunningham said.

Advocacy group for the incarcerated finds home in Oakland

By Timothy Hicks
Staff Writer

An organization established 40 years ago to advocate for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people recently relocated to Oakland, reports Carla Williams on oaklandnorth.net.

"If we don't protect Oakland, we won't have an urban community to call our own," said Dorsey Nunn, executive director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC). He was referring to the fact that Black people now make up only 4 percent of the population in San Francisco.

"We lost San Francisco, but we have the opportunity to do something great here in Oakland," Nunn said.

LSPC was based in San Francisco until the organization bought a building across the bay as its permanent location.

The organization is staffed with the formerly incarcerated and family members

of those who are currently incarcerated. Nunn is also a formerly incarcerated man who served more than 10 years in prison for a robbery/homicide committed at age 19.

One of the employees, Oscar Flores, said he thinks the reason why the group lasted these 40 years is its power in leadership.

According to Flores, the LSPC answers every letter it receives from inmates. The organization assists inmates with litigation or finds an attorney to help with legal affairs. Flores added that they also help people get information about child custody, divorce and, if people have children, parents or guardians who leave the country, they can help with locating them.

Williams reported that in 2017, the group helped sponsor the bill AB 412 that became law to help protect low-income people who fail to appear in court from a penalty fee that could have charged them more than \$300.

"So much history takes place over 40 years," Director Nunn said. "I think that LSPC is evolving in a good way."

To celebrate their 40-year anniversary, the organization hosted a sold-out event at the Scottish Rite Center in Oakland. Guest speakers at the event included Marc Lamont Hill of *BET News*, Vonya Quarles of Starting Over, Inc. and Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. All three advocate for alternatives to prison and say imprisonment is not the only form of punishment that can be used.

Journalist Hill emphasized, "We've got to get rid of this idea that justice means punishment...and for too many of us punishment means confinement." He continued, "Our ultimate goal can't be a world where cops get locked up for killing us. It has to be that cops are demilitarized and disarmed so they can't kill us, so prison does not become our end goal."

Death Penalty

Continued from Page 1

Often overlooked by the number of men on Death Row are the more than 20 women sentenced to death at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla, Calif.

"If you want to turn this into a real place of rehabilitation, get rid of death row," said inmate Anthony Evans, 55. "This is supposed to be the most rehabilitative place in the state."

Evans said the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) could use the money it spends on the Death Row to fund more rehabilitative programs at San Quentin. "This is the oldest prison in California. The only thing

that keeps them in control of this property is the East Block Death Row."

"Every governor that comes in gotta do something with this system," said inmate Hamisi X. Spears, 46. He said Gov. Gray Davis maintained the position that no one who was serving life would go home on his watch, and Gov. Schwarzenegger wouldn't oppose some of the decisions made by the parole board to grant some inmates release dates.

Not all inmates agree with Newsom's decision. Inmate "Das" Stuart speaks his own truth. "I'm sad that some of them (on Death Row) won't be put to death." He said he still feels the pain from 40 years ago when his 26-year-old wife was murdered by a man in Washington state. He said

the man was convicted, sentenced to death and later had his sentence commuted. He said because some people may be innocent, "I'm ambivalent."

"Some of those dudes (on Death Row) are not guilty," said inmate Timothy Pinckney, 56. "I agree with what the governor is doing. I think he made a good point, even though the (victims') families don't agree with him."

Inmate Ed Carlevato, 66, said "If I were on Death Row I would want to be executed." He reasoned that, "If all my appeals were exhausted, I want to be executed instead of living in a box for nothing." As a Catholic, he said such a desire to be killed would leave him "conflicted," but he sees it from the other side so his faith allows him

to side with Newsom.

The governor's Executive Order N-09-19 says, in part "It is hereby ordered that: An executive moratorium on the death penalty shall be instituted in the form of a reprieve for all people sentenced to death in California... California's lethal injection protocol shall be repealed," and "The Death Chamber at San Quentin shall be immediately closed..."

Although often under reported, there are two Death Chambers at the prison. This is because there are two methods of execution in California. According to the *California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Section 3349*, "Inmates sentenced to death shall have the opportunity to choose to have the punishment imposed by lethal gas or lethal injection."

The gas chamber was installed in the 1930s to replace the gallows where men were hanged. In 2010, an upgraded lethal injection chamber was installed at San Quentin at a cost of \$853,000, *NPR* reported. It was never used. "The last execution in California occurred Jan. 17,

2006, when Clarence Ray Allen, 76, was put to death."

"The day has finally come," said Rep. Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, the *Marin Independent Journal* reported. "This is something I've been pushing and expecting to happen for a long time. I'm surprised we made it through two terms of Jerry Brown without him doing it. I'm glad that Gov. Newsom had the guts to tackle it early on."

In other *KRON 4* broadcast, current and former prosecutors had different thoughts on Newsom's order. San Mateo District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said his county has put away "vicious killers" and victims' families are "outraged."

California Senator Kamala Harris said the death penalty is "immoral" and deeply flawed. She was the district attorney of San Francisco and the state's attorney general. The city's current district attorney, George Gascon said poor people and people of color are more likely to have the death penalty imposed on them than anyone.

"It's a racist system and you cannot deny that," Newsom said in a broadcast by Bay Area *KPIX 5*, a *CBS* affiliate station.

Collateral consequences of incarceration still linger

By Amir Shabazz
Journalism Guild Writer

Jay Jordan's story is an example of the barriers the formerly incarcerated face when trying to make a new life outside of prison.

He was paroled in 2011 fol-

lowing seven years in prison. He filled out 30 applications as a barber, a skill he learned while locked up. He remained unemployed. Everywhere he went, his past convictions stopped employers from even considering him, reports Kay Wicker for *thinkprogress.org*.

These circumstances are anything but unusual. One in five Californians have convictions, according to a report published by Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ), an organization for which Jordan now works.

The report showed that a

"vast majority have never done any time," but their convictions are barring them from living a productive life. In fact, nearly 75 percent of parolees are unemployed a year after they are released.

A conviction in California can act as a barrier for attaining safe housing, public benefits and gainful employment. It also complicates issues of immigration and can negatively affect one's health, medical or mental, according to the article.

Jordan managed to turn his frustrations into activism, taking on a number of jobs involving community organizing or political campaigns before CSJ hired him in 2016. However, employment was only one of his hurdles.

He and his wife cannot apply for adoption because of his conviction. They bought a home recently, but Jordan is not allowed to join the Home Owners' Association. They have discussed a dream of starting a company, but

Jordan cannot apply for licensing.

"I'm affected by every other (barrier)," said Jordan.

The CSJ report shows the systemic marginalization of living with convictions.

"A wealth of evidence indicates educational programming is one of the most effective approaches to reducing recidivism," reported CSJ. "Still, individuals with convictions, particularly if they have been incarcerated, must overcome significant obstacles in accessing educational and vocational training programs."

Approximately 40 percent of those incarcerated nationwide do not have a GED or a high school diploma, and 46 percent have no secondary education. This hinders access to jobs, making it harder to re-establish community ties and abstain from criminal behavior. Those who make it into colleges or technical schools still face massive systemic hurdles in completing

their degrees.

For example, the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (VCLCA) prohibits the incarcerated from getting Pell Grants, which do not need to be repaid, unlike loans, noted the CSJ study. Additionally, those who committed drug offenses while receiving federal financial aid are no longer eligible for "federal financial aid to attend an institute of higher learning."

The CSJ report, which Jordan helped compose, is the first step in a campaign called Time Done, which hopes to clear a path toward sun-setting convictions.

"This is not about shorter sentences," Jordan said. "This is about people who are out and have served their time, have paid their debts and remain crime-free and have proven they can live in society and be productive. All we are saying is, 'Let's not put our foot on their necks as a country.'"

Subtle tactics to dismiss Black jurors in CA trials

Some California prosecutors may be using subtle tactics to dismiss Black jurors, despite laws against such racial bias in jury selection, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

You could call it the "O.J. Strategy." Rather than addressing race overtly, these prosecutors ask jurors whether they agreed with the controversial 1995 acquittal of O.J. Simpson. Simpson, a Black football star, was charged with the murders of his ex-wife and her friend, who were both White.

If jurors agreed with the verdict, they are dismissed, and prosecutors cite non-racial reasons. Others are added to the jury if their answers satisfy the prosecutors, according to the article.

The Simpson case isn't the only tactic prosecutors have used to discriminate, say defense lawyers. Federal and state courts in California said jurors were

removed because they lived in predominantly-Black Los Angeles communities, according to the article.

Attorneys for two Black men on California's Death Row said prosecutors used the O.J. Simpson question to select juries in the 1990s. The victims in both cases were White.

California's high court has upheld similar convictions in other cases.

In one of the cases, Johnny Duane Miles was convicted of rape and murder by a jury with no Black members.

Two Black prospective jurors were removed from that trial after answering that they agreed with the Simpson verdict. But prosecutors say their removal was due to their skepticism of presented evidence, the *Chronicle* reported. Miles was sentenced to death in 1999.

Miles' lawyer Cliff Gardner contested the prosecutors' explanations, describing them as "pretexts for

discrimination." He added that the jurors who were dismissed came from law-enforcement-friendly backgrounds: The first was a Marine Corps veteran and married to a correctional officer. The other was the son of a federal drug agent.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra's office has argued that while the O.J. Simpson case was still national news, it was fair game for pre-trial questioning, according to court filings.

"The Simpson case was not about race," Deputy Attorney General Seth Friedman said in the filings, which are a response to NAACP arguments on Miles' behalf.

Instead, he argued that the trial is a stand-in for issues relevant to future cases such as "the reputation and trustworthiness of police officers," the *Chronicle* reported.

—By Amir Shabazz

Texas program produces more than 350 entrepreneurs from prison

Texas has graduated more than 2,000 individuals from a prison entrepreneurship program. Upon release, some of these graduates have gone on to create more than 350 businesses in their local communities, according to *The Crime Report*.

All 2000 of the individuals who graduated from Texas' Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP) were employed or self-employed within 90 days of their release from jail. Most of them have retained their employment for more than a year after obtaining the positions.

The program has a low 7 percent recidivism rate for all graduates in a three-year period. This is in comparison to the 23 percent recidivism rate for all other inmates released in Texas during the same time, according to the article.

These statistics have prompted new talks about the need for people released from prison or local jails to have the opportunity to participate in technology-driven

programs, ones that will enable them to gain employment which low-wage positions that offer little opportunity to advance, according to the article.

The Crime Report noted that policy makers can help victims, communities, families and incarcerated individuals by updating job skills while they are incarcerated.

If jails train inmates in utilizing online platforms and hold training classes on entrepreneurship, inmates will build marketable skills. Even jails without a class program can schedule seminars by the Inmates to Entrepreneurs organization or similar groups. Volunteers from local businesses could teach classes, too.

Such future-changing programs can teach inmates how to create a start-up business and successfully manage a business once released, according to the article.

Many local jail and prison programs now offer training and work-release programs.

Yet they fail in training inmates about modern technology, and that limits the post-release opportunities for employment, according to the article.

Programs like PEP in Texas show how successful such programming can be. In the year 2018, data collected on PEP showed a 794 percent return on each dollar that was invested in the program during a five-year period. PEP also saved the state of Texas and federal government around \$4.3 million dollars in the 2017 fiscal year, according to the article.

The Crime Report stressed that such data suggests that all prisons and local jails will have a lower recidivism rate and increase public safety by teaching incarcerated individuals about the role of modern technology in today's jobs. This enhanced training will offer them a better chance to build and establish their future financial security.

—By Harry C. Goodall Jr.

Daniel Barfield spent nine years in solitary confinement

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

During his 20 years of incarceration at Georgia's Diagnostic and Classification Prison, Daniel Barfield spent nine years in the solitary unit, according to *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

"I've seen people go crazy," Barfield said regarding his stay in isolation, adding, "I've heard people go crazy. Just out of the blue a person will flip and act out all kind of different ways, saying they're going to kill themselves."

Barfield was sent to prison in 1988. He was 13 years old when he was accused by a relative of molesting her 3-year old daughter, according to the article.

Per Georgia penal code, "a person convicted of their first offense of child molestation shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than five years, nor more than 20 years."

"Me being illiterate and dumb, I said I'd take that," Barfield said of the five year plea bargain he accepted. Adding, "My family didn't know anything about the law at the time so we listened to the lawyer."

He adamantly denies the allegations and said, "It was my word against hers."

Instead of being tried in a juvenile court, Barfield was tried as an adult, a decision that may have been made based on his other petty crimes. "I used to steal my parent's car," said Barfield. "I was probably doing it to get attention." Barfield told the *Journal-Constitution*.

When he turned 17, he was transferred from the juvenile facility he was housed to an adult facility. He then found himself housed at Alto Prison, where most of the prisoners were under 25 years of age.

"It's just an awful place," said Sara Geraghty, attorney for the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Ga. "The sexual violence that occurred there was unlike anything I've ever seen. Rapes were happening on a daily basis."

"A lot of times I'd get so mad that I was there because I knew I was innocent," Barfield said on his stay at Alto prison. "That built a lot of anger in me. As I got older I tried to develop myself as a man, to get ready for my family, to not be the angry person I was in prison. Mentally it was real rough."

While struggling to find peace of mind, Barfield, a White boy from South Georgia, found solace in Islam. The religion gave Barfield the peace he sought, according to the article.

"That helped me a lot with my anger and my temper, 'cause I calmed down and became a man," Barfield said of his conversion to Islam.

This new peace and religion created problems that led to him being placed in solitary.

"The officer said 'I don't know why you White boys are always taking the fall for the Muslims,'" recalled Barfield.

This statement led to an altercation in which Barfield was sent to "the hole" (Administrative Segregation)

and was then transferred to Jackson special management unit E-wing. In this unit inmates are allowed outside of their cell for one hour per day. Inmates are not given any personal effects. They only receive sheets, blankets and hygiene items, like a toothbrush. There's no library access, TV, or radio for personal entertainment, according to the article.

Barfield's faith is what kept him strong during his nine-year stay in this form of isolation.

"There's no way, based on his infraction, that Daniel should've been there for nine years," said Geraghty, who was part of a team that sued the Georgia Department of Corrections over conditions inside the solitary unit.

Barfield's situation is not a singular instance. More than 20 percent of the inmates placed in solitary have been retained in the special management unit for more than six years. However, as a result of the lawsuit filed by the Southern Center for Human Rights, the department has reduced its restrictive housing by 40 percent, according to the article.

Now released at 33 years of age, Barfield's transition back to society has proven difficult. Finding employment as a known sex offender has been difficult.

"Being around people is the biggest adjustment," he said, adding, "I just have to learn to deal with it. It might take me awhile, but I'll get used to it."

Barfield has found a girlfriend via Facebook, and they have hopes of one day getting married.

One city opts out of using prison labor for menial tasks

By Michael Jace
Journalism Guild Writer

The use of prisoners for cheap labor to perform tasks such as landscaping, that many consider to have minimal, if any rehabilitative value, is being curtailed in one city, according to Andrew Caplan of the *Gainesville Sun and Gainesville.com*.

City commissioners of Gainesville, Florida, met in November to discuss a new pilot program created by City Manager Anthony Lyons that could eventually replace the need for prison labor as soon as Oct. 1, the start of their next fiscal year, according to *Gainesville.com*.

The proposed pilot program met opposition.

"This is slavery. This is human slavery," said Commissioner Gigi Simmons.

"When I look out at the prisoners in the hot sun, they look like me," she said.

"The majority of them look like me. They look like my nephew. They look like my uncle. They look like my son. Enough is enough."

Across the country, there have been protests and debates over how inmates are treated while incarcerated.

There are concerns of price gouging for commissary items sold to prisoners while companies and governments exploit inmates, using them for cheap labor, which some say is "immoral," according to *Gainesville.com*.

Gainesville is attempting to address this problem with the proposed pilot program that would have up to six young adults doing landscaping and instructional coursework at Santa Fe College and help give the young adults business experience, build resumes, and pay them for their labor.

None of these benefits were or will be given to the inmates who continue to do the work

until Oct. 1, when the pilot program is schedule to begin, according to *Gainesville.com*.

Dozens of activists packed the meeting room to overflow, forcing dozens more to crowd into a hallway to hear the discussion and show their opposition.

The activists found an ally in Commissioner Simmons, who continued her staunch opposition to the pilot program calling it, "an embarrassment." She said that the optics of using mostly Black participants to replace prison workers to do landscaping was "unacceptable," according to *Gainesville.com*.

Gainesville has at least two contracts with the Florida Department of Corrections. Between its parks and public works departments, the two collectively pay about \$110,000 annually for the service(s), with none of the money going to inmate laborers.

Once incarcerated, Borey Ai loses battle with immigration

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Borey Ai was 14 years old when he shot and killed a storeowner during a 1996 robbery. It made him the youngest juvenile lifer in California's prisons. When he appeared before parole board commissioners in 2016, they said he was no longer a danger to public safety and recommended his release from prison.

Waiting at the gates, however, were Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents who took him to a detention facility.

Ai said his plans about how he was going to live his life "all went crashing down" when he was put in a "loud, open dog cage." He said the next 18 months were spent using conflict resolution skills to promote peace among his fellow detainees—

skills he learned through San Quentin's Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP).

"There was so much oppression," Ai said last November to about two dozen San Quentin inmates taking GRIP. "The guards used us against each other. People were flipping out. I was sitting there uncomfortable—physically, mentally, emotionally."

Ai and his fellow detainees, some "straight off the streets," struggled with being separated from their families. Others, including Ai, who was born in a refugee camp, were subject to deportation to countries they never knew.

He said that he sought to "create an environment where they respected each other and worked together. I went to the shot-callers (gang bosses) to ask them how can we exist and be able to go back to our families. We cre-

ated The House Man, who had to do conflict resolution."

All during his detention, he said he thought of "the eight guys who saved my life, referring to the Red Road Program peer educators who guided him through his past and allowed him to self-reflect and understand his violent, gang-infested background. He said that the peer educators shared "very deeply, how they lost loved ones," which made him say to himself, "This is real life."

One man, who told his story in tears, described how he lost two daughters to crime. Ai said the emotions made him look inward and say, "That's what I did." He added, "At that point, I chose to be open, to be accountable to the people I've harmed. I'm very, very mindful of the eight people who saved my life." He added, "The GRIP curriculum is a big part of

my life. When I was in ICE, I used it."

While in detention, GRIP Executive Director Jacques Verduin supported Ai. Ai is currently out on order of supervision by ICE, pending the outcome of his application for pardon. He wears an ankle bracelet.

The day Ai was slated for deportation, more than 40,000 letters and postcards were sent to the governor's office, asking him to stop the deportation.

At the hearing the district attorney and victim's family, who sat directly behind him, spoke about the impact that Ai's murder had on their family.

"I really connected to their pain," Ai said. "I heard their story. It was so humbling. This is why I do this work. Then, there was a miracle. They invited my family to speak—they were late. My

mom shared her life story and half the people in the room, including commissioners, were crying. She's speaking in Cambodian, and it's being translated. The security guard at the door had his hands in his face, heaving."

Verduin added, "It was very powerful to see his mother, who folded her palms together and begged for her son. Everyone knows a mother's heart. That was very powerful."

"It's great to have him back; He's very talented as an administrator," Verduin said, referring to Ai's work as a GRIP counselor.

In the twisting nature of the pardon process, the board recommended that Gov. Brown grant Ai a pardon, which the governor then did. The California Supreme Court was then required to sign off on that decision. The Court, however, rejected



Borey Ai

File Photo

Brown's pardon, making Ai, once again, subject to deportation.

In a subsequent phone conversation with Ai, he told *San Quentin News* that he has not given up fighting against the deportation.

Restorative justice forum discusses the harm in nonviolent crimes

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

Before he paroled from San Quentin in 2010, Leonard Rubio started the Restorative Justice (RJ) Interfaith Roundtable. On Feb. 9, he returned to speak at a symposium about the harm a burglary caused his wife.

"My wife isn't supposed to feel unsafe at home," Rubio said to the crowd of 150 outside and inside community members. "I needed to express that scares me. And even in a nice town, when the dogs start barking, I still check. I still put the alarm on. It doesn't give me a sense of security."

The Harms of Non-Violent Crime held by The San Quentin Restorative Justice (RJ) Interfaith Roundtable came about because some people convicted of non-violent crimes claimed they haven't hurt anyone.

"They don't realize the emotional harm," said RJ Facilitator Darnell "Moe" Washington. "Part of taking accountability is having insight to see all of the people impacted by your actions. Some of the most violence is emotional violence and we have to take accountability for that."

The impact of the burglary committed against the Rubios became apparent as Aouie Rubio fought back tears as she talked about the



Kevin McCracken speaking at the Restorative Justice symposium

Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

day someone stole her sense of security.

"I felt violated," A. Rubio said. "I couldn't sleep. I was so nervous to be home by myself that I put the alarm on even during the daytime."

When the violation happened, the Rubios lived in Richmond, California where their home was under constant attack – car break-ins, stolen packages. They fought them off with alarms and a Ring doorbell system, which

had added a microphone, camera, and motion sensor to the front door. Yet in 2016, a female broke four doors before finally getting into the home through the back.

A. Rubio watched her through her Ring system on her cellphone but the police didn't arrive in time to catch the person. They made off with \$2,500 in electrical equipment L. Rubio struggled to purchase for work.

"She probably sold them

for \$500, no big deal to her," L. Rubio said.

Now L. Rubio works as the Executive Director of Inside Prison Project and lives in a much nicer neighborhood but still is affected by the burglary.

"I had to pay to have things repaired, replaced, time off from work and deal with my issues with fear of the potential that something could happen again. It's gut wrenching," A. Rubio said. "How do

I practice RJ when I felt so violated?"

After the Rubios presentation, several incarcerated men stood up to apologize.

"We're supposed to make a list of those we have harmed," Charles Trumare said. "In doing my step work I told my sponsor, I couldn't apologize to who I harmed. I was a burglar. I never saw their faces but RJ has shown me the harmed I caused. I want to apologize to you and do me a favor, give your wife a hug for me."

For A. Rubio, the event was her first time publically talking about the burglary and she said it grounded her.

After the Rubios, host George "White Eagle" Coates, introduced the next guess speaker, Kevin McCracken, who said he has been sober for 20 years and is now the CEO of Social Imprints. He hires returning citizens as a way of making amends for his years as an addict when he thought shoplifting was no big deal.

He talked about the impact of his brother's drug addiction and theft.

"He (McCracken's brother) stole from me, family, clients, he's lying," McCracken said. "He is my best friend and he can't stop using and he can't stop lying. How do I forgive this? What do I do? He's just not ready, but I have been able to forgive myself for all the people that I harmed."

Two incarcerated men closed out the symposium with short talks about victim-offender dialogues they had with survivors of the violent crimes they committed.

Jason Samuel shot police officer Tom Morgan back in 1997. The officer came to his parole board hearing to get Samuel denied parole but during the hearing, he heard about all the changes Samuel made and self-help groups he completed. At the next parole board hearing, the officer supported his parole release. Since then, the two have met and embraced each other.

"Tom and ... granted me a once in a lifetime opportunity to practice restorative justice," Samuel said. "When I met with Mrs. Morgan, I thought she wanted to slap me. To my surprise, she gave me a hug. I thank her for seeing me. It was a special moment to share restorative justice with Tom and Christy Morgan."

Next, Texan Alan Mabrey talked about meeting the mother of a 24-year-old girl he killed while driving drunk.

"It was the scariest moment of my life; I started balling like a baby when I saw her," Mabrey said as he fought back tears. "The main thing that broke the ice was her. She hugged me. Thank God for forgiveness."

—Alan King contributed to this story



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

D. Stephens asking questions about restorative justice



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Leonard Rubio and wife at the catholic chapel

KidCAT co-founder Charlie Spence home after 22 years

Kid CAT Speaks!

By Joe Garcia
Staff Writer

KidCAT Chairman and Co-founder Charlie Spence committed serious crimes as a teenager, but he transformed his life during almost 22 years in prison.

"I know I can't change the effects that I've had in the past, but I can change the effect I will have in the future," Spence told the *San Quentin News*. "I believe life only matters in the effect it has on another life."

Spence started his incarceration as a confused 16-year-old who called 911 in an attempt to save the man his friend killed during a botched robbery. He would face trial as an adult and be convicted of a felony murder.



Photo by Jonathan Chiu
Charlie Spence

He paroled out of San Quentin on Jan. 11, leaving behind a legacy of true leadership and inspiring thousands.

"It's nice to see Charlie become a man—really become a man," said Nou Phang Thao, who met Spence in 2007. They and seven other young men started the youth offenders group KidCAT at San Quentin. "Eleven years ago I would've never imagined seeing him mentor so many young guys and help them find themselves."

Volunteer Phil Towle works as a life coach on the outside and has known Spence since KidCAT's early days. "I don't know anyone I've met inside or out of San Quentin that has given more of his soul to the people around him," said Towle. "He truly epitomizes placing others above ourselves."

"I saw early on that Charlie was committed to transforming his life. The fact that he's done that is no surprise...He's constantly touching everyone around him to be better. Those kinds of people are rare."

Phillipe Kelly came to SQ in 2016 because of KidCAT's message of hope. He became involved in the youth community and received a commutation of his sentence from Gov. Jerry Brown last year.

"I owe you my freedom," Kelly told Spence at their final KidCAT meeting together on Jan. 3. "The impact you had

getting SB 260... I remember being on a Level 4 and thinking, 'I ain't ever getting out.'

"I wanted to meet whoever put this together. When I got here and saw you was the one, I was blown away. You was on me since the first day."

That's how Kelly recalled Spence pushing him to be accountable for his own life choices. "Normally when people do that, you know that they care," Kelly added.

Spence went before the parole board for the first time in early 2018 and received a three-year denial, but Gov. Brown intervened, aware of all the positive things Spence accomplished in prison.

"I think that's only the second time that's ever happened. I was really moved when the governor laid out everything good I've done in his letter to the board," Spence explained.

John Lam, writer for KidCAT Speaks, also received a commutation last year from Brown. "There's not one young person at this prison that you have not touched," Lam told Spence at that last meeting. "You stepped in and saved this group at a time when we were losing direction and had no leadership."

Long-time volunteer Beverly Shelby said, "There's no greater gift in my mind than to touch people—be a mentor. I've seen KidCAT from the beginning, and you really did step in and save it."

New KidCAT Chairman Si Dang understands Spence set a high standard for leadership.

"I've met so many people in prison—so few resonate like Charlie," Dang said. "He just has this overwhelming humanity. He takes this interest in people, and you can literally see him bring them back to life."

"Charlie's one of those role models you don't want to disappoint," said recent KidCAT member Rodney Rederford. "At first, I used to try and hide from him before he could notice me out on the yard. Now, I always try and catch up with him."

"I didn't think there was change in me. A lot of us real hardened criminals need someone like Charlie to just reach out to us."

Miguel Sifuentes referred to Spence as "The Genius" and commented, "Before I met Charlie, I didn't think it was possible for guys in blue to talk like that. He made me feel everything's possible. I really want to thank him for that."

Spence gets squeamish when he hears guys speak of him as a role model. "I know I'm on a path to do a lot of things that can touch and change people's lives," he said. "That's a gift God gave me, so to be praised for that gift is awkward."

"Especially coming from my background as a 'special ed' kid, it's still hard for me

to see myself as someone worthy of being praised."

Spence used his time behind bars to attain a bachelor's degree in psychology. He is currently preparing to take the Legal Scholastic Aptitude Test (LSAT) in order to be accepted into law school. His dream is to attend the UC Berkeley's School of Law and then to advocate for criminal and social justice reforms.

Spence acknowledges Phil Towle as his own primary role model. "I really respect all the work he does," Spence said.

"Phil makes you feel cared about when he's around—no matter what."

"It's tough not to cry a little when I hear that," Towle said. "There's no greater tribute from someone I respect as much as Charlie. His words humble me."

Spence also cites Dwayne Betts as a role model he'd like to meet and work with one day. Betz spent nine years in prison before eventually graduating from Yale Law School and being accepted into the Connecticut Bar Association as a practicing attorney.

Spence's first employment upon release will be counseling veterans at San Francisco's Community Partnership Housing, an organization providing supportive housing for veterans.



Photo by Jonathan Chiu
Charlie Spence packing shampoo for the Kid CAT Hygiene Drive

He will begin his reentry at Seventh Step, a transitional house in Hayward. Then he plans to start a new life with his best friend and wife, a woman he met, became devoted to, and married while incarcerated.

Volunteer Gail Towle fought back tears, not wanting to smear her makeup, at Spence's last KidCAT meeting. "You're going to be a great force in the community, a powerful force," she said. "You know that saying, 'Behind every great man...,' well, he's married to a wonderful woman. They'll be great together."

Reflecting on his time at SQ, Spence said, "I'm never going to stop thinking about all the young guys who came behind me."

Once facing a lifetime behind bars, some now offered a chance at freedom

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Juveniles sentenced to die in California prisons now have the chance to go home—if they can prove they have rehabilitated.

To help them achieve that goal, two attorneys are providing workshops to help juvenile offenders prepare for the Board of Parole Hearings that will determine their fate.

"(Elizabeth) Calvin and (Heidi) Rummel are working to help those still behind bars prepare for parole hearings that they never expected to have." That is why the pair went to Corcoran in September and were at Kern Valley State Prison a few weeks earlier, *The Nation* reports.

"At Corcoran they met with three separate groups of inmates throughout the day. Each inmate was given the

chance to speak individually with a law student and talk informally with...two other former juveniles (sentenced to life without parole (JLWOP))."

One of those former juvenile LWOPs in attendance was Joel Aguilar, 41, who was released in December 2015. Aguilar is one of only 14 California Juvenile LWOPs who've been released since Senate Bill 9 was passed in 2013.

Addressing the inmates at the workshop, Aguilar said, "I know what it is to walk around that track thinking that this is where you're going to die. You know what? It's over. You guys are coming home."

Although there is reason for optimism, to be actually released from prison by the parole board is not guaranteed.

"Juvenile LWOPs are at a distinct disadvantage; most are ill prepared for both parole-board hearings and life outside," *The Nation* reported.

One of the main criteria by the Board to find someone suitable for parole is a demonstration of rehabilitation by participating in programs. However this is nearly impossible for most inmates serving LWOP.

"Those of us who are LWOPs are considered the worst of the worst, hopeless and beyond redemption, which is why we are not a priority in rehabilitation since we have no parole," said Timothy L. Bludworth, LWOP inmate at Tehachapi State Prison.

"I pray something will change."

Despite the challenges juvenile LWOPs face in obtaining programs for rehabilitation, change is still possible.

"My mistakes were the constant finger-pointing and blatant refusal of any responsibility for my actions," Bludworth said.

"I'm so sorry to my victims for the pain and harm I have caused them."

Regardless of the positive changes Juvenile LWOPs may be able to demonstrate, some victim advocates do not want them to be paroled.

One is Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins, whose sister and brother-in-law and the couple's unborn child were murdered.

For years, Bishop-Jenkins advocated against the death penalty. She said she was comfortable doing so because she knew her sister's killer would never get out. When she learned he might one day be released she was shocked.

"I believe that there are a

few very dangerous people in this world and that age has nothing to do with that dangerous aspect," said Bishop-Jenkins, who is also leader of National Organization of Victims of Juvenile Murderers.

The Nation article noted, however, that according to a 2008 Human Rights Watch report, as many as 45 percent of California's juvenile LWOPs had not killed anyone. Often they were tried as co-defendants with adult offenders and received longer sentences.

While the obstacles for a juvenile LWOP to be found suitable for parole are considerable, there are still things lifers can do to improve their chances.

At the mock hearing, Rummel posed several questions to be answered. What did you do? Why did you do it? How

did you change?

The questions are easy, she said, but the answers are not.

"There were so many who...couldn't let themselves believe that there was a chance they were going to go home," Rummel said. "But (they) got to do this (and) start believing."

Currently there are about 300 juveniles serving life without parole in California.

Elizabeth Calvin is a senior advocate in the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. Heidi Rummel is the co-director of the Post-Conviction Justice Project at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

Both women also helped to spearhead the vast majority of juvenile justice reform legislation in California over the past decade.

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

Dear Kid CAT

Thank you for the donation in the amount of \$850.81 as a result of your food sales to support Special Olympics Northern California. I apologize for the delay in sending this acknowledgement to you. Please extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who participated in this fundraiser!

Through donations like yours, Special Olympics Northern California is changing the way the world looks at children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Our organization has proven that through sports competition, Special Olympics athletes are given the chance to strengthen their character, develop their physical skills, and fulfill their human potential.

More than 22,780 individuals with intellectual disabilities have the opportunity to train and compete in 14 different sports all year long for free. Your donation will help us continue to enrich the lives of our athletes and enable us to reach out to more individuals who could benefit from our program.

On behalf of our Special Olympics athletes we appreciate your continued support. You are helping us change lives!

Sincerely,

Katie Ostrom
Director Law Enforcement Torch Run
Special Olympics Northern California & Nevada

To donate or for more information contact:
www.sonc.org or 3480 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 340, Pleasant Hill, CA, 94523-4343



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 makes your neighborhood different from any other neighborhood? What do you miss most about it? How has your neighborhood made you who you are? How would you be different if you had grown up in a different neighborhood?

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

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

A woman prisoner's creative approach to housing

By Timothy Hicks
Staff Writer

Women continue to be innovative and skillful, with creative ideas – even while in prison, according to a *National Public Radio (NPR)* source.

Vanessa Thompson had an idea for solving Indiana's abandoned housing problem while watching television on her bunk in one of America's oldest facilities — Indianapolis Women's Prison. Thompson heard Democratic Mayor Joe Hogsett discuss Indiana's 10,000 abandoned houses, a

problem resulting from factory closures and the mortgage crisis.

Her idea was to have newly released inmates restore the abandoned houses, thus creating with their "sweat equity" a safe and affordable place for their families to live.

"It's a double restoration – not just of the house but of the person," said Thompson in an interview with *NPR*. She continued, "What does Indianapolis need? A solution to this housing crisis. What do women in prison need more than anything? Ownership of

minds, of bodies and of our physical homes."

Thompson and three other women in the Indianapolis women's prison recently presented video testimony to the state legislature. The video detailed their idea to assist women transitioning out of prison by teaching them construction skills.

The women settled on "Constructing Our Future" as the name of this re-entry company.

The impetus for their courage was a class Thompson and the other inmates had taken on

"public policy" taught by volunteer teacher, Kelsey Kauffman. In it the women studied bills currently being considered by the Indiana legislature. They practiced writing policy amendments, learned how to contact politicians and the press. When their time came to act on their own proposal, they were prepared.

John Nally, director of education for the Indiana Department of Corrections, gives an enormous amount of credit to Kauffman for creating the public policy class in 2012, reports *NPR*.

Nally said Kauffman has a fierce belief in the women's capacity to create, regardless of their crimes.

Before Thompson ventured to video-chat with Habitat for Humanity, YouthBuild, Yale Law School and local community corporations to learn about "sweat equity," she acquired a textbook about low-income housing policy and the women studied it closely.

Thompson and her classmates gained the help of a supporter who set up a GoFundMe for them and the women wrote grant proposals to raise \$200,000 for tools and equipment and to hire staff for their project, said *NPR*.

Toni Burns, 44, who is serving a 30-year sentence on an attempted murder conviction was quoted saying, "Our labor is often discounted

as women; if they give us vocational programs at all, it's always something like cosmetology instead of auto repair or forklift driving."

Burns and other students learning restoration skills would have to complete 5,000 hours of "sweat labor" to finish the course they propose. Burns expressed concern that this program is more likely to be implemented in the men prisons faster than in the women's.

Although the Indiana State Assembly approved Constructing Our Future's proposal in a unanimous resolution, the women are still waiting for the project to be set in motion.

Staff shortages have a greater negative impact on female prisoners

By Achilles Williams
Journalism Guild Writer

Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is plagued by staff shortages that are having damaging effects on female prisoners' care and critical services, reported Jeff Mordock of the *Washington Times*.

The BOP is experiencing a shortfall of trained staff nationwide. This shortage has prompted the Justice Department's Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz to call for an increase in trained prison employees because the shortage has restricted the access of female prisoners to necessary care and services.

"The lack of sufficient staff is most noticeable at larger female institutions," according to a report written by Horowitz.

For example, it is BOP's policy that female prisoners may only be searched by female correctional officers,

but the shortage does not allow this policy to be enforced because female correctional officers cannot be at each post where searches are conducted.

"Staff shortages are more complicated with women prisoners because it's compounded when you have male correctional officers in positions where women are required to do the strip searches," said Kara Gotsch, director of Strategic Initiatives at the Sentencing Project.

Horowitz's report stated that 90 percent of the female population would benefit from trauma treatment, but the insufficiency of staff makes such treatment virtually impossible.

Staff shortages, combined with overcrowding, has resulted in the use of cooks, teachers and civilian employees to perform guard duties, his report notes.

There are an estimated 7,100 open positions at federal

prisons across the country. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has 37,237 civil positions and 19,073 correctional officers. However, these numbers could be reduced by a Trump Administration's 2019 proposal.

"The BOP will determine the appropriate level of staffing that should be allocated to the women and Special Populations Branch, based on an analysis of its broad mission and responsibility," said Hugh Hurwitz, acting director for the Federal Bureau of Prisons

According to Gotsch, however, the best solution to this problem is sentencing reform for women with low-level offenses.

"There is never enough money in the federal budget to adequately care for prisoners if we have significant overcrowding and maintain this high-level of incarceration," Gotsch said.

Tourists unknowingly ask women prisoners for help

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Inmates, at a women's prison in Raleigh North Carolina do an unusual job, according to an article in *USA Today*. They spend their days answering an 800 call line.

Inmates responding to calls on the 800-VISITNC phone line will answer questions about whitewater rafting, fairs, ski slopes, festivals, Civil War sites and wineries in the state's 100 counties.

The program was created in 1980, when tourism calls were handled by state employees or an automated service. Through the program, inmates learn telemarketing skills and callers can talk to a live person. "At \$1 to \$3 per day, it's the best-paying prison job and is in one of the few air-conditioned and carpeted workplaces," said

Teresa Smith, the call center's supervisor for the Department of Commerce.

Potential inmate employees are screened for their education level and people skills. They are then trained in tourism marketing and taught about the state's history. Although the inmates have access to live telephone lines, there are restrictions in place. The phones only allow incoming calls, and the computers in the office can only access North Carolina tourism sites and industry databases.

Some calls take about 30 seconds to handle but others can take up to 30 minutes, according to the article. "On a slow day, I might get a dozen calls. Last night, I handled 40 from Outer Banks," said Kim, an inmate serving 17 years at the prison. "I feel like I'm in an office and not in a cage. It's a

real job, and I'm making a difference by helping people."

Kim remembered one of her most memorable calls, which came from an older woman who had gotten lost trying to drive to Tennessee. "I just told her, 'Just stay on the road and tell me what the next sign is that you see,'" she said. "The call took a half hour, but I helped get them where they wanted to go."

The call center is open every day except for Christmas, including during weather events. In 2017, inmate employees answered over 95,000 phone calls and fulfilled 769,000 requests for maps and brochures, according to the article. That included four days of expanded hours before Hurricane Florence, when they fielded calls from coastal residents and visitors heading inland who needed help with their plans.

Rebecca Weiker
Contributing Writer



Beginning this month, the San Quentin News will have a "Restore Survivors" column, where a victim or survivor family member will share their story. The column will be written in collaboration with Re:store Justice, a restorative justice organization that works with survivors, people responsible for crime, and community members to create healing and transform California's criminal justice system so that it can meet the needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by violence.

The purpose of this column is to give the people incarcerated in California's prisons the opportunity to hear directly from victims about the impact of crime on their lives. It is also a platform for them to communicate whatever they would like about their journey. As the Program Director of Restore Justice, I wanted to introduce myself and write this first column.

My beloved sister Wendy was killed in 1992. Wendy was a psychologist committed to creating healing for people with mental health challenges. As my older sister, she was my friend, mentor, protector and the person who most made me feel safe and loved. Wendy was fierce, funny, open-hearted, and an advocate for peace and well-being for everyone, regardless of their national origin or religion.

In my work, I sit in circle with men and women who have killed another person, and who are seeking to understand what led them to that moment in time and to heal themselves so that they never create harm again. I have witnessed amazing transformations and feel incredibly grateful and honored to have the opportunity to connect with people, both survivors and people responsible who want to connect to create healing and transformation for themselves and others.

One of the things that I appreciate about working in Restorative Justice is that it honors and supports the complexity and contradictions of every individual's healing journey. We may be stuck in anger that really is hiding our grief, we may believe we want retribution but also be hoping for accountability and remorse. Both victims and those who are labeled as offenders may have needs that are poorly met by our current system. I am hoping that this column, by highlighting the voices of survivors, will allow for a deeper and more compassionate understanding of the very long and winding journey that healing from violence can take.

I am excited to read the stories of the people we work with, and know that their decision to share their stories with you will help many individuals on their own journeys toward insight and accountability. As human beings, we all share the need to see and be seen. I hope that by learning about each other we can deepen our compassion and create healing in ourselves and others.

And we also want to acknowledge that the labels of "victim" and "offender" fail to describe the truth of who each of us is. Most people who create harm, were harmed themselves. Understanding the way in which our early experiences led to creating harm can help us "connect the dots" and gain insight into how the past informs our current behavior. It also may allow us to see ourselves and our loved ones in our victims, gaining compassion for everyone who is impacted by violence.

With deep gratitude for this opportunity,

Rebecca Weiker
Program Director
Restore Justice

Victim of sexual predator granted clemency for his murder

By Anthony Manuel
Carvalho
Journalism Guild Writer

A woman convicted of murdering a sex predator while she was 16 years old has been granted clemency in what is described as a major victory for criminal justice reform.

It was "A major victory for human rights advocates," said ex-prosecutor Preston Shipp, who previously opposed parole for Cyntoia Brown, convicted of murder 15 years ago. Shipp's view was included in an op-ed article *USA Today* published on Jan. 11.

Clemency was approved by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam. Brown is scheduled for release in August.

The case garnered viral status on social media with support from celebrities such as Rihanna, Kim Kardashian and LeBron James.

Cyntoia was born with fetal alcohol syndrome due to her mother's alcoholism; was subjected to abuse and neglect as a child, lived on the streets, self-medicated her own mental health issues with alcohol and drugs; and was subsequently victimized and exploited by a human trafficker at the age of 16.

She then killed one of her "Johns," who was 27 years older than her, claiming self-defense. She was tried and sentenced as an adult to a mandatory 51 years in prison.

The *Nashville Tennessean* reported Gov. Haslam

acknowledged sentence reform and juvenile sentencing reductions by saying, "... imposing a life sentence on a juvenile that would require her to serve at least 51 years before even being eligible for parole consideration is too harsh, especially in light of the extraordinary steps Ms. Brown has taken to rebuild her life."

Haslam also said, "Transformation should be accompanied by hope. So, I am commuting Ms. Brown's sentence, subject to certain conditions," including parole for 10 years.

Mariame Kaba, co-founder of Survived and Punished, an organization that supports survivors of violence who have been criminalized for defending themselves, described Ms. Brown's journey to freedom when she was interviewed by *Democracy Now's* Amy Goodman.

"Well, I think it's important to note that Cyntoia has been surrounded by a support team of people for at least the past decade...make sure people understand this (clemency) didn't come out of nowhere and that people have been fighting on her behalf for almost as long as she's been incarcerated."

Kaba stressed, "...I think people should know that... parole is extremely, extremely restrictive... And so, she's going to have to be very careful for the next 10 years that she doesn't get violated back. So she's not 100 percent free."

One of Cyntoia's attorneys,

J. Houston Gordon, emphasized the need to change laws regarding juveniles at the national level. "Her story, though, is a story that should be a catalyst for a lot of others, thousands of juveniles.

"We need to see this as a national awakening to change the draconian laws that allow juveniles, children, to be placed in adult prisons."

Ex-prosecutor Shipp commented, "Cyntoia's story should not demand our attention because she is a rare exception. The opposite is true."

He became an instructor at Cyntoia's prison.

Shipp lauded her transformation by writing, "Cyntoia has experienced emotional healing from her traumatic past and has diligently worked to become an exceptional person...(she has) cultivated a deep desire to help others. I am thrilled beyond measure that she'll be able to build a life outside of prison."

Brown thanked the governor "for your act of mercy in giving me a second chance. I will do everything I can to justify your faith in me."

She added, "With God's help, I am committed to live the rest of my life helping others, especially young people. My hope is to help other young girls avoid ending up where I have been."

Brown took accountability for her own actions, and transformed herself through education and self-healing classes, Shipp wrote.

Freestyle powerhouse Curb Service visits San Quentin



Photo by Eddie Herena for San Quentin News

Jelani, KJ Focus and Chris Balderas jamming at the Protestant Chapel



Photo by Eddie Herena for San Quentin News

Ama gets caught in the moment and sings amongst to the crowd

Freeman, Davis and frontman Rob Woods started performing together on a neighborhood street corner near Lake Merritt. "We started on the curb," Chapman said. "That's why we go by 'Curb Service.'"

Woods, the creative force behind the lyrics, found his true voice while serving a prison sentence at Terminal Island Federal Penitentiary. He put performing at SQ on the top of his bucket list after reading about the great musicians that have played here in the past, like Johnny Cash, Santana and Metallica.

"I want people to see that no matter what the situation is, whatever the problem—even if you think it's the lowest point in your life—just channel your energy into good intentions," Woods told *SQ News*. "More doors will open for you as soon as you leave these gates—be prepared."

"Guys talk about wanting to get out of here, but you gotta use these times as the motivation. Make a mental picture of these moments so you know to never return to them."

Besides its core three members, Chapman explained how Curb Service incorporates other artists into the mix, like vocalist Ama, keyboardist Jelani, bass player Chris Balderas and guitarist Joshua Parada. Depending on their individual schedules, the lineup flips and evolves from day to day and venue to venue.

Ama moved to California recently, collaborating with Curb Service for the last six months. She entered the SQ chapel with a rich smile of warmth and compassion. "It's all about love," she said. "I don't care what situation we in—always love."

Before the set began, Woods talked about the playlist and about the two songs he wrote while incarcerated, "Long Gone" and "That'll Be Cool".

"You'll be able to hear and feel that fire, that good energy," he said about those songs. "My mind was at its sharpest during that time."

Rodney Rederford popped into the chapel to peep the scene before running late to his college class. As soon as he and Woods made eye contact, Woods stopped the interview for a brief moment.

"Hold up real quick," Woods said as he turned to a photographer. "Can I get a shot with my boy right here?" Rederford and Woods quickly stood together.

"Just from right here right now," Woods said later, when asked how he knew Rederford. "I felt that connection."

Rederford agreed. "I didn't give it too much thought," he said. "It was probably the energy or something." After listening to the first half-hour

of the show, Rederford reluctantly hurried off down the hill to his class.

"I ain't gonna lie," he said on his way out the door. "Dude be tearin' that mic down, for real."

Before his first song, "Real Love," Woods told the crowd, "I feel like I'm back home. It wasn't too long ago I was inside."

"Time is more than just a word," he said. "It's years... It's summers... It's missed phone calls."

Woods called SQ's music director and sponsor, Raphael Casale, onstage to thank her for inviting Curb Service into the prison.

Casale shared her first experience with their sound. "I was in the Tenderloin off Market Street. I literally just came out of Macy's with bags in my hands, and I heard this music."

"I never stop, but as soon as I heard these guys, I thought, 'I gotta go talk to them.' I never do that. I introduced myself to Ama, then Rob, and right away I knew I had to ask, 'Do you wanna play San Quentin?'"

"With them, it's all heart. They're here tonight because they want to play for you."

Curb Service immediately captured the SQ crowd with an undefinable sound of their own. Was it Hip Hop or NeoSoul? Rock 'n' Roll, or maybe Jazz Fusion? These elements were all in play, yet the dynamic hybrid proved far greater than the sum of its parts.

About one hundred onlookers sat spread throughout the chapel at the start of the show. After each song, more and more of the crowd stood in appreciation and cheered, while men from North Block and H-Unit filled the space to its 373-seat capacity.

"I feel y'all standing up for me," Woods said between songs. "You better watch out—I'm going to have to start actin' up."

A man of his word, Woods fed off the growing crowd's energy, strutting up and down the aisle while unabashedly spitting his lyrics left and right and putting his vocal arsenal on full display.

Near the end of the first set, Woods took a break while KJ Focus blasted through a saxophone solo. The riff-filled rollercoaster ride had everyone pumped up and on their feet. Balderas, Davis and Parada all got individual turns to show off as well.

When Woods returned, he slowed the tempo down to strike a more serious note. "I want y'all to understand: I couldn't have done these things without the time," he said. "I know that's hard to hear."

After Woods' eight songs, vocalist Ama rose from the choir side area to perform three songs of her own. Casale came onstage with her to give a quick shout out to Big Giant Lighting, the San Francisco-based stagelighting crew that came into SQ with Curb Service.

"I'm gonna smooth it out for y'all now," Ama said, smiling at the crowd and Casale. "See, with women, we love—that's what we do."

Ama's resonant voice got most of the crowd dancing up from their seats during her first song, "Fool Over Love." Some guys bounced into the aisles so they'd have more space to really get down.

Hamisi X. Spears has been incarcerated since 1995, the last four years at SQ. He became overwhelmed by the infectious rhythms and Ama's vocals.

"They say music calms the savage beast, and that's what this music did," said Spears. "I enjoyed myself so much that I had to get up and dance."

Feeling the vibe herself, Ama grooved her way down from the stage and continued singing from amongst the men.

Surrounded by blue shirts and happy faces, she let the crowd know: "I met some amazing men here today. You guys are powerful."

"Don't ever forget, my brothers, wherever your mind goes—you go. Let your mind go to prosperity...to the truth... That's where you're gonna be."

"No matter where you are, where you're going is gonna be so much greater. Trust me, I've been down before. When you're

down, you can only go up." Woods rejoined the band to close the show and encourage the audience about life beyond incarceration: "If you do nothing but think good, talk good, look good—smell good, then you are good."

He pointed to his father, T.L. Woods, who made the trip to SQ.

"My dad's the one that showed me: You may be in the dark, but you're never in the shadows," Rob Woods said.

It was the very first time T.L. Woods had ever seen Curb Service perform. "Music sure can take your mind away," the proud father told *SQ News*. "You see how positive it is in here? Outstanding."

A retired officer for the

California Department of Corrections, T.L. Woods worked most of those 22 years at Folsom. "My first day coming to work, that's when it was still CDC, before it became CDCR," he said. "Even back then, I always looked at the men for who they are. Prison is made up of people's families—my family, your family—not bad people, just people who made mistakes."

"There are more people in CDCR that think the way I do than those that think the negative 'guard versus inmate' mentality thing."

After it was over, Curb Service had all the lights turned on in the chapel, and Woods asked all the men to gather up front to take a panoramic photo to commemorate the event.



Photo by Eddie Herena for San Quentin News

"Drummer-boy" Aaron Davis meets Hamisi X. Spears



Photo by Eddie Herena for San Quentin News

Curve Service, their management team and T.L. Woods pose outside the SQ Chapel area

PUP hosts Chan Zuckerberg Initiative criminal workshop



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Volunteers and inmates exchanging ideas



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Visitor listening to Conrad Cherry about his presentation



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Instructors Jesse Rothman and Jire Bademosi



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Kelton O'Connor

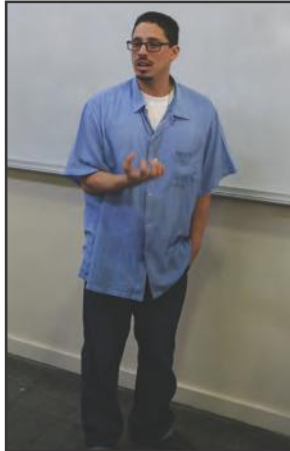


Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Tony DeTrinidad



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Anthony Mackie presenting his idea to the audience

CZI

Continued from Page 1

• Give participants an opportunity to develop their own reform proposals for consideration.

"A sophisticated theory of power is vital to activism," Jamgochian said. "In order to affect change in a structure, our university students need to see how power morphs to maintain social control."

Therefore, the first third of the semester was dedicated to learning about power, social theory, and mechanisms for control.

Jamgochian facilitated the first class discussion after students had read Judith Butler's essay "What Is Critique?"

Jamgochian asked the class what they thought about criminal justice reform. Then she explained that all of the ideas that were tossed around were structured around what the students had been exposed to in society, through television or literature—no one mentioned any alternatives.

"Social conditioning happens because we are exposed to ideas and institutions of

power that have been in existence before us," Jamgochian said. "Some of those institutions are mechanisms of control but if no one questions them, they continue to exist."

Students were asked to start thinking about a project proposal that would revolutionize the criminal justice system.

PUP coordinated four-research assistants to help the students with their ideas.

"The first third of the class was heavy-duty reading and thinking," Jamgochian said. "But it was important to have a good foundation moving forward."

In the second third of the semester, participants learned about philanthropists' efforts to help reform the justice system.

According to "Knowledge for Justice: The Rising Tide of Grants for Criminal Justice Research" on insidephilanthropy.com, philanthropists "largely ignored criminal justice for decades."

Today, some estimate that philanthropists now donate about \$300 million a year toward criminal justice reform efforts such as reentry programs, community-building organizations, and ballot initiatives.

However, according to a report by Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), "Following the Money of Mass Incarceration," the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that it costs \$81 billion just to run the corrections system.

According to the PPI report, the Bureau of Justice Statistics said the corrections system costs \$265 billion a year can be misleading because that "includes the costs of federal, state, and local corrections and the entire police and court systems."

During the CZI workshop, Rothman led discussions about promoting common sense solutions that save taxpayer dollars and reduce the impact of crime.

"There is definitely a lot of money spent by sustaining this form of punishment," Rothman said. "However, with more than 2.5 million individuals system-impacted, the human cost can no longer be ignored, so people want to do something about it. I believe that you all can help advance the change that we need."

In November, Twitter and Square CEO Jack Dorsey attended the workshop to discuss social media as a place to start a conversation about

cultural change and important issues.

"We've definitely developed a platform for a world conversation about important issues," Dorsey said. "Social change comes about when people start to see more of the bigger picture."

When asked about Twitter's role in cultural influence, Dorsey explained that Twitter allows people to exercise their freedom of speech but does not guarantee a broad reach.

Dorsey emphasized that building a movement requires earning an audience, not imposing agendas on people.

"Justice to me is a path toward balance," Dorsey said. "We strive toward that by giving everyone a platform to leverage their voice."

Sara El Amine, executive director of former President Barack Obama's "Organizing for America" grassroots effort and now the director of advocacy at CZI, also attended the workshop.

El Amine discussed the fundamentals of community organizing and the necessity of power mapping—identifying key stakeholders, movers, and shakers.

"Once you know who

actually has power to address your concern, you can start strategizing," El Amine said. "Sometimes you don't even have to do too much to get someone to take notice of an issue."

Yoel Haile, former political director of the Afrikan Black Coalition and now a Criminal Justice Associate with the ACLU of Northern California, said that there are times when you have to do a lot more.

"We were able to get the University of California to divest nearly \$30 million in private prison investments after collecting a lot of data and meeting the Chief Financial Officer," Haile said. "It wasn't easy but we were persistent."

David Plouffe, former campaign manager for Barack Obama during the 2008 presidential election and now CZI's policy director; Mike Troncoso, former senior counsel to then California Attorney General Kamala Harris and now director of Criminal Justice reform at CZI; and Mike Romano, Stanford law professor, also contributed lectures and insight during the workshop.

By mid-November, 20 of the initial 25 participants

turned in their proposal outlines.

The students' proposals ranged from targeting the school-to-prison pipeline, promoting inmate-run rehabilitative programs, providing more technology in prison, developing informed reentry programs, providing electronic employment placement, and making the criminal justice system more accessible by utilizing regular English instead of using legalese.

"I didn't see myself as being able to affect change in the world, as an inmate," said DeTrinidad, a workshop participant. "But after some of the readings and speakers, I was inspired."

On January 26, 2019, the participants gave their presentations to about 40 academics, philanthropists, and community organizers.

"After the presentations, people were inspired because they had heard from those involved with the system," Rothman said. "I believe that these proposals are saturated with informed experience."

The proposal summaries were reviewed and posted on the Medium website for the public and philanthropists to view.



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Workshop participants, research assistants and coordinators of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative workshop

San Quentin college students triumph over UC Santa Cruz in Ethics Bowl debate

By David Ditto
Staff Writer

San Quentin inmates prevailed against University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) students in the second Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl match hosted by the Prison University Project (PUP).

About 100 people, including PUP, gathered in the prison chapel for the lively debate on February 15. After two rounds of engaging discussion seeking resolution of ethical dilemmas, the judges narrowly decided in favor of the inmate/students on the San Quentin-PUP debate team.

Combined with last year's victory, the team of incarcerated students is now two-for-two in the competition with the UCSC Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (IEB) team.

"I was impressed with last year's performance," said PUP student Roosevelt "Askare" Johnson. The success inspired him to join the team himself. Minutes before this year's match began, Johnson said, "I look forward to the challenge, and I'm hopeful to keep the legacy alive."

Randy Akins, another member of this year's San Quentin debate team, described how he learned constructive dialogue skills through college classroom discussions. "PUP prepared me to argue respectfully. We can agree to disagree. We can find common ground."

Angel Alvarez, in his second year of the competition, completed the three-student San Quentin team. The team began preparing for the Ethics Bowl in weekly PUP Debate Group meetings with the volunteer coaches in September.

"The Debate Group is an opportunity for prisoners to weigh in on the important issues of today—issues which may have nothing to do with prison," said coach Kathy Richards after a meeting. "The Ethics Bowl allows you to argue from a place you truly believe." She described how the Ethics Bowl format is more honest than other debate formats that arbitrarily assign a "pro" or "con" position to a team, regardless of their actual perspectives on the issue.

Coach Connie Krosney described the role of a San Quentin Ethics Bowl coach. "We help the men think in philosophical terms rather than just responding with a gut reaction," said Krosney, who holds a doctorate in applied ethics. "We teach them to articulate ethical concepts, to think critically and logical-

ly," she said. "It's important to understand others' perspectives."

"Ethics Bowl teaches a form of argument that is constructive, respectful, and moves the conversation forward," said San Quentin coach Kyle Robertson before the event. Robertson is a lecturer in philosophy at UCSC and also coaches their IEB team. In his 14 years of coaching UCSC, the team has advanced to the national IEB four times.

"Instead of using argument as a weapon, the Ethics Bowl uses argument as a genuine form of communication," said David Donley, who also coaches both teams. He said the debate inside San Quentin State Prison is important because "the audience sees people from very different backgrounds engage respectfully in conversation about very difficult topics."

ROUND ONE:
The debate began with moderator Kathy Richards introducing the issue for round one, including consideration of "disproportionate disenfranchisement of African Americans as one symptom of a biased criminal justice system." With stopwatch in hand, she then asked the question of the first round to the San Quentin team: "Is it ethical to deny ex-felons the right to vote?"

Given two minutes to prepare their answer, the PUP team—seated at their table on the left side of the stage—immediately began writing notes.

On the right side of the stage, the six UCSC teammates—all undergraduate students majoring in philosophy, psychology, and legal studies—quickly formed a circle around their table to plan their rebuttal.

Allowed ten minutes to present their views, Johnson led the PUP team's response: "Ex-felons should have the right to vote upon successful completion of their sentence and parole..." He continued, "Restoring the right to vote not only restores an injustice, but it also restores integrity and humanity."

Teammate Akins added, "If you can't vote, you're not part of the system. You don't feel American."

Santa Cruz was permitted one minute to confer, and then debater Noah Thomas began the team's five-minute rebuttal. "Thank you for your views. We agree it is unethical to deny the right to vote to ex-felons after parole...also during any stage in the process."



PUP team Roosevelt "Askare" Johnson, Angel Alvarez and Randy Akins



Bowl moderator Kathy Richards



Ethics Bowl coach Kyle Robertson



Ethics bowl judges: David Donley UCSC, UC Berkeley law school student Anna Zaret, (middle) and Will Bondurant, PUP volunteer teacher

He engaged further, "Being incarcerated may mean you are more affected by the laws, so you should still have a voice in the system, even if you have broken the social contract."

Teammate Marian Avila-Breach reinforced the rebuttal, "Considering broader racial inequities, where is the justice here?"

After a one minute San Quentin team conference, Johnson began their five-minute response to UCSC's position. "We agree with the law Governor Brown passed last year allowing voting in county jails." However, Johnson also clarified a point of disagreement, "Voting as a prisoner is not correct. If you break the social contract, you forfeit that right. You have to pay the price."

The judges then entered the dialogue. From their center-stage table, they asked the PUP students to clarify whether restoring the right to

vote was conditional on low recidivism and plentiful rehabilitative resources, a point made in the team's initial response. The all-volunteer panels of judges were PUP communications and public speaking teacher Will Bondurant, David Donley, and UCSC IEB alumna and UC Berkeley law school student Anna Zaret.

The first round ended with the San Quentin team's engagement with the judges.

ROUND TWO:
The second round offered the UCSC students their turn to formulate, present, and defend their position on a different ethical dilemma:

Regarding recently passed Belgian law prohibiting the slaughter of un-stunned animals according to Jewish Kosher and Islamic Halal practice, moderator Richards asked, "Is it ethical to value animal welfare more than the right to practice one's religion

freely?"

Avila-Breach led Santa Cruz, responding that the question presents a false juxtaposition, but their overarching moral evaluation found that the law itself is ethical. She stated that their research shows that the secular state's intent is for the law to reduce suffering and increase empathy, not to diminish religious freedom.

Teammates Sadelle Sewalt, Robert Potter, and Paul Mojaver presented further support for UCSC's position.

San Quentin's Angel Alvarez rebutted, "A secular community can still have biases... we feel this is an unfair law... it infringes on the religious rights of minorities."

Santa Cruz reemphasized that the unstunned slaughter causes suffering, but Aliye Swaby offered, "We do acknowledge that these religious beliefs and practices are important and that they do consider animal suffering."

Then the judges engaged UCSC, asking how their team position balances the state promoting compassion versus limiting personal freedom. Nodding heads and quiet comments filled the audience and stage when judge Zaret asked, "Can disproportionate impact override a lack of discriminatory intent?"

After the Santa Cruz Ethics Bowl team's dialogue with the judges, the only thing left was the scoring.

THE JUDGES' SCORES
After tallying their individual score cards and a brief conference, the three-judge panel announced their scores to the audience and debaters. Judge Bondurant: SQ 44, SC 48. Judge Zaret: SQ 48, SC 47. Judge Donley: SQ 52, SC 51.

The two-to-one split-de-

cision granted the win to the San Quentin inmate-scholars.

The Ethics Bowl is a collaboration between the PUP College Program at San Quentin and the Center for Public Philosophy at UC Santa Cruz.

Prison University Project's mission includes increasing access to higher education for incarcerated people.

PUP's Debate Group teaches San Quentin inmates the crucial skill of engaging in constructive, respectful dialogue. Through the Ethics Bowl, PUP brings the invaluable voices of the incarcerated into the important discussions shaping society today.

The Center for Public Philosophy strives to empower the broader public by spreading philosophical thinking beyond the select few in universities. In addition to the San Quentin Ethics Bowl, the Center engages the public with projects that bring philosophy into elementary schools, high schools, and local county jails.

Jon Ellis, the founding director of the Center and associate professor in the department of philosophy at UCSC, attended the match between the San Quentin and Santa Cruz students. "The Ethics Bowl is a crucial form of debate because it emphasizes disagreeing constructively and productively. How we disagree is important," he commented after the event. "When there is a lot at stake, we are likely to get emotional or adversarial, but that is precisely when we need clear thinking and understanding the most."

Unlike traditional debate, Ethics Bowl promotes moving the conversation forward, seeking resolution and common ground.



Photo by Javier Jimenez SQN

Santa Clara State team Noah Thomas, Aliye Swaby, Paul Mojaver, Marian Avila-Breach Sadelle Sewalt, and Robert Potter

AROUND THE WORLD



Storytelling

Continued from Page 1

"It felt good performing in front of the probation department," Phillips told San Quentin News. "When performing in prison, this is what we were trying to achieve: for the COs (correction officers) or someone from the administration to come and see that we have talent.

"But we were our own best audience. They [the prison staff] never showed. I hope with this performance they can see that ex-inmates or ex-convicts have talents. I hope this can go further," added Phillips, who served six years in California women's prisons.

Susan Tanner, executive director of TheatreWorkers Project, said the performance piece is not your typical play, because the production incorporates movement, poems, and lyrical performances. Tanner is both the producer and co-director.

Tanner conducts a workshop program with the Dad's Back Academy, a Los Angeles reentry organization, run by The Friends Outside. The program uses theater to reintegrate parolees and formerly incarcerated men and women back into society.

"When I was writing it, all these memories came up for me—things when I was a child, things I haven't thought about in years," said Pam Torrence, who served four months in a federal detention center.

"I didn't realize that I had forgotten all those things.

They all came to the surface. Some things made me very emotional. Some things were bittersweet, especially when I talk about my mama," Torrence added.

Torrence credits her love for theater and performing at an early age for giving her confidence to command a stage.

"We did a Christmas play when I was incarcerated and I sang," Torrence said. "I did drama in junior high and high school. I was a drama major. I'm a performer; I like to act out," she said jokingly.

The LATTTC performance brought out more than 100 students to attend the play. The college itself has a diverse student body of formerly incarcerated, undocumented students and veterans, along with its mainstream enrollment.

"The quality of the performances was excellent," said Laurence B. Frank, president of LATTTC. "But it was the second-act discussion that moved the audience, many of whom are reentering society, post-incarceration, to share their experiences and tell their stories."

The discussion was included in the probation department performance in an effort to give the audience an opportunity for more in-depth knowledge about each person's life and goals.

"It was self-expression for me to perform in front of the probation department," Torrence said. "Just because you make a mistake in your life that doesn't mean that's who you are. You have an opportunity to make choices and recreate your life as you go."



Pam Torrence, Antoineeta Phillips, Milo McCollough, guest artist Whitney Wakimoto and Anthony Jenkins Sr.

Photo Courtesy of Marlene McCurtis

Actress and reentry volunteer Whitney Wakimoto joined the cast after one cast member dropped out. Wakimoto has a master's degree in theater. She holds a parenting and acting workshop at Lynwood Detention Center with female prisoners.

"It was an interesting process because I was like thrown in. They are telling their story and I'm not telling mine," Wakimoto said.

"I had to find where I connect with the story and step back and let it be their show.

"It's about giving the women the safe space to let their guard down and to be witness, to play, to have a childhood for a moment," Wakimoto added.

Tanner said Wakimoto was a useful addition. "I've seen her go from just saying the words to her really embracing the characters.

I think she helps drive the piece," Tanner added.

The play is one part of a line of productions by returning citizens. "A Man Like Me" and "On the Brink" are also being performed on college campuses.

The TheatreWorkers Project and Dad's Back Academy are providing returning citizens a chance to stand up and be heard.

"The difference performing in the streets is it feels more appreciated, even with the smaller crowds," said Phillips. "It's a sense of freedom."

The writing workshops were led by Tanner, Jim Macdonald, Marlene McCurtis and Rubén Guevara. Playwright Bonnie Banfield shaped the material. Alexa Kershner did the staged choreography.

Snippets

Cannabis has been used as a treatment for nausea, vomiting, anorexia, and weight loss in cancer and AIDS victims.

Approximately 98% of Antarctica's surface is covered in ice.

Venetian masks are a centuries-old pastime of Venice to disguise people's identity.

Insomnia is more common among elderly and women, especially after menopause.

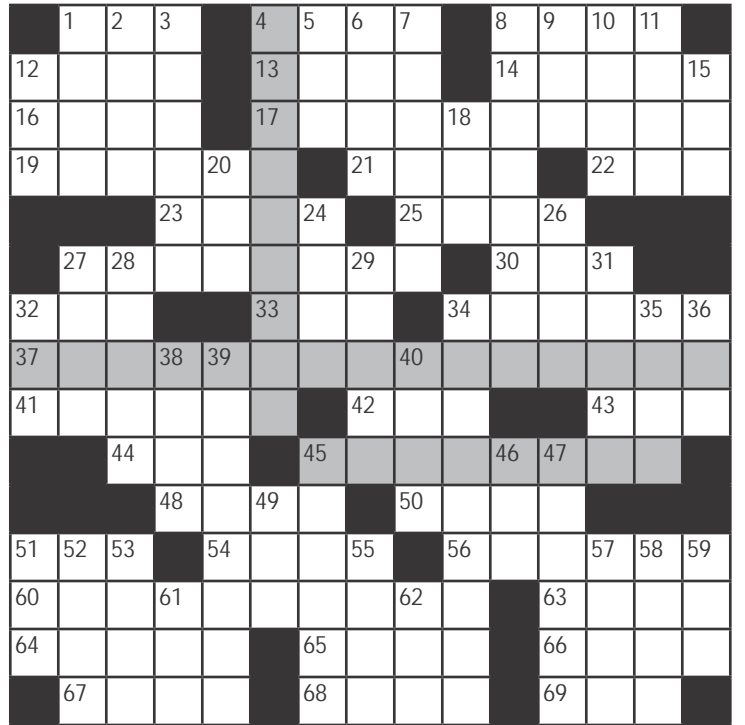
Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States, the tallest President at the time at 6ft 4in with great stature in height and accomplishments.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Title artist: Sara Bareilles

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mule Russia's former alliance Vegetarian's org. Square column on either side of a door Not one Lizard that can change colors Hospital speak Instructors' posts Put the _____ on (put an end to) City in state of Thuringia, Germany Bribe Existent Walking _____ Title artist's tune who wrote songs for this Broadway play Rapper Tone-_____ Asian currency (Abbr.) Central principle of the universe Summarizes Title artist tune or where you have to read Metallica album Michelle Branch song "____ I Get Over You" Some prison residents (Abbr.) Beatles' song "____ Birthday" Title artist's tune or 311 tune Animal protection agency (Abbr.) Compass direction Detective speak (Abbr.) Contraceptive devices (Abbr.) NOLA team Tube type of pasta filled with meat Hawaiian island "If You Could Only See" band SpaceX founder Musk Overlooked Hawaiian goose Snoop _____ Greek goddess of the dawn | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Against Bite To understand enlightenment in Buddhism Title artist's tune or somewhere no one has ever been Roman sun god Hindrance Starts over Type of geometry line Can be highly inflated Resort town in N. New Mexico Shell Question Police weapon Spanish title of respect (Abbr.) Pinochle term Narrow Places Whoopee! In a manner that's suitable _____ voce Camera brand Cowboy org. Letting go Simon of <i>Mission Impossible: Fallout</i> Warning sounds Distresses Secret service accessory Collective Served up Retirement agency (Abbr.) Superfluous ____-de-sac Mouthwash brand A short lived meson in particle physics Hathaway of <i>Ocean's 8</i> Alone 2000s Apple device Consequently Type of sandwich (Abbr.) Trent Reznor's band (Abbr.) Holiday drink |
|---|---|



L A S T M O N T H ' S A N S W E R S

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

Sudoku Corner

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

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

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

Last month's Brain Teasers:

Although Jim and Barbara had to buy four presents for various weddings, they found they could not agree on four identical presents. They bought four separate gifts; and the first one cost \$5.00 more than the second. The second was half the cost of the first, plus one-third the cost of the first. The third cost two-thirds of the first, and the last cost double the third. They spend a total of \$115. What did each of the four cost?

214	219	254	259
659	654	619	614
873	873	873	873

If you want to be absolutely certain, you have to pick out eleven pieces of fruit. Your first ten might be five nectarines and five peaches, unlikely as that is.

This month's Brain Teasers:

This puzzle is courtesy of Patrick Czaja from CCI in Tehachapi.

There are 32 teams in the NFL. Thirty-one are listed below. Can you fill in the missing teams? Some may not be what you think, and you may have to think outside the box. To help you started, one has been done for you. GOOD LUCK!

- Spotted felines: _____
- Goliaths are these: _____
- Birds of Prey: _____
- Mover helpers(?): _____
- Glossy black birds: _____
- Leaders: _____
- Cougars: _____
- Burnt umbers(?): _____
- Uncastrated horses: _____
- Male ewes: _____
- Shows everything(?): _____
- Paul Revere(s): _____
- Girl with arms(?): Doll with arms=Dolphins
- Came marching in: _____
- Dollar for corn(?): _____
- Huge army insects: _____
- Hot epidermis(?): _____
- 747s: _____
- Paper money: _____
- Formerly females(?): _____
- Credit card users(?): _____
- Wild horses: _____
- Gold miners: _____
- King of beasts: _____
- American Gauchos: _____
- Iron workers: _____
- Marauders: _____
- Two strokes below par(?): _____
- "Six" rulers(?): _____
- Ocean going birds: _____
- Church dignitaries: _____
- _____

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

Jóvenes encarcelados encaran discriminación en sentencias

Español

By Noel Scott
Journalism Guild Writer

Las herramientas para evaluar - el riesgo que representan los ofensores

fueron diseñadas para disminuir prejuicio a la hora de dictar una sentencia, sin embargo podrían estar causando discriminación contra los infractores juveniles, reporta Wendy Sawyer del Prison Policy Initiative.

Esta evaluación toma en consideración muchos factores que pueden incrementar el riesgo de estas personas, los cuales incluyen antecedentes criminales y la edad. Los jueces utilizan estas herramientas para dictar sentencia. Las audiencias de libertad condicional confían en ellas para determinar la elegibilidad de los

infractores.

Megan T. Stevenson y Christopher Slobogin descubrieron que "los ofensores de 18 años obtienen calificaciones que en promedio son dos veces más altas que los ofensores de 40 años".

Los jóvenes a menudo reciben una calificación que refleja "alto riesgo" sin tomar en consideración la diferencia entre su desarrollo en relación a los adultos.

Stevenson y Slobogin encontraron que muchos jueces no conocían todos los factores que fueron considerados en las evaluaciones de los jóvenes y a menudo clasificaron de alto riesgo a las personas sin una explicación sobre cómo llegaron a esa conclusión.

Ese desconocimiento crea serias implicaciones legales y éticas y también ocasiona que los jueces cometan la misma clase de errores que

estas herramientas deberían prevenir.

La juventud es una "espada de doble filo", apuntan Stevenson y Slobogin. Los infractores juveniles son catalogados menos culpables, pero también son considerados de alto riesgo para cometer actos de violencia. A lo largo de la nación, los jueces a menudo atribuyen a los ofensores juveniles menor culpabilidad al sentenciarlos. Sin embargo, los métodos que se utilizan para determinar el nivel de riesgo no consideran este aspecto.

Stevenson y Slobogin analizaron el COMPAS Violent Recidivism Score (VRRS), una de las principales herramientas de evaluación. Los resultados indican que "la edad constituye aproximadamente el 60% del resultado de la examinación".

El estudio examinó otros siete algoritmos de

la evaluación y descubrió que cada uno de ellos considera la juventud igual o más importante que los antecedentes criminales al determinar el riesgo de los infractores jóvenes. Esto ocasiona que el juez perciba el carácter del ofensor de una manera injusta, lo cual influye la sentencia impuesta.

Una encuesta reciente a los jueces de Virginia, reveló que únicamente el 29% tenían "conocimiento pleno"

de las herramientas que estaban utilizando, mientras el 22% no tenían "conocimiento" o únicamente "un poco de conocimiento". En Virginia, los resultados de la evaluación del riesgo de los ofensores vienen con una recomendación de sentencia, reportó Sawyer.

Las evaluaciones para determinar el riesgo se complican aún más por los factores agravantes y mitigantes, tales como trastornos por el abuso

de sustancias, enfermedades mentales y desventajas socio-económicas.

Los jueces y las comisiones de libertad condicional pueden ejercer discreción al realizar recomendaciones, pero como Stevenson y Slobogin señalan, no puedes contrarrestar la influencia negativa que la etiqueta de "alto riesgo" tendrá en los ofensores.

—Por Traducción
Tare Beltranchuc

Programas de rehabilitación dan esperanza a reos

Por Juan Espinosa
Diseñador gráfico y escritor

Hasta hace algunos años, el comienzo de una sentencia de cadena perpetua parecía ser el fin para muchos prisioneros, hasta que los cambios en las leyes abrieron esperanza para muchos de ellos y les permitieron iniciar un proceso de rehabilitación.

En décadas pasadas muchos presos sentenciados a cadena perpetua tenían que iniciar sus sentencias en los niveles de máxima seguridad. Estos niveles no contaban con ningún tipo de programas de rehabilitación que los ayudaran a mantenerse ocupados y trabajando para mejorar su vida.

Daniel López, un inmigrante mexicano, recibió una sentencia de 33 años a vida con posibilidad de salir en libertad condicional. En una entrevista con *SQ News*, López comentó, "fui sentenciado por un doble homicidio en segundo grado. Y cuando trate de apelar mi caso, todas mis peticiones fueron denegadas".

López cuenta haber llegado a una prisión de máxima seguridad en Delano, California. Dice que en esa prisión "solamente tenía dos horas al día de recreación, después ir a cenar, y finalmente pasaba el resto del día encerrado en una celda sin nada que hacer".

Además de estas restricciones por parte de las autoridades penitenciarias, los prisioneros tenían que

lidiar con otro tipo de reglas, como eran las políticas de los grupos étnicos que controlan las prisiones. "No podíamos socializar con otros prisioneros. Y si lo hacías, las consecuencias eran graves, además de que los individuos que controlaban la prisión, tenían reglas bien claras en cuanto a socializar con prisioneros de otras razas, y esto te hacía volverte más violento", dijo López.

"Nos sirve para poder sentirnos más humanos"

Las consecuencias por adoptar ese tipo de comportamiento, como es el odio racial, se traducen muchas veces en falta de empatía. También ese comportamiento puede traer problemas más serios. "Cuando te encuentras frente a los psicólogos para tu evaluación psicológica y tratas de ser lo más honesto posible, éstos te tratan de antisocial, sin tomar en cuenta que estas experiencias son en realidad un trauma", agregó López.

Las experiencias diarias a las que se enfrentan los prisioneros, especialmente los que no entienden el idioma inglés, son verdaderamente traumáticas. Por lo general esos presos no encuentran la ayuda que necesitan ya que el sistema carcelario no reconoce

el tema de la violencia como un problema psicológico sino como un problema de comportamiento. De ahí la falta de programas de rehabilitación para el individuo. "Trata a una persona como una persona violenta y lo volverás más violento de lo que es", expresó López.

López arribó a la prisión de San Quentin en el 2015. Dijo que al principio le "fue muy difícil adaptarse", sobre todo porque no estaba acostumbrado a ver tanta gente que viene de voluntaria a la prisión.

"Muchas veces me preguntaba ¿qué hace tanta gente aquí? Luego me di cuenta que eran voluntarios en los programas de auto ayuda", añadió López.

López empezó a participar en varios programas de auto ayuda, como Guiding Rage Into Power, Alcohólicos Anónimos, Narcóticos Anónimos, Manejo de Ira, y otros. "Estos programas me han ayudado a sentir empatía por los demás, a ser más sociable, y a enfocarme más en mi educación", dijo López.

Los programas de rehabilitación sirven no solo para dar a los prisioneros un poco de esperanza de poder encontrar su libertad. "Nos sirve para poder sentirnos más humanos, y también para [si es que salimos] ser mejores personas y mejores miembros de la comunidad a donde salgamos. Y yo quiero estar listo para cuando ese momento llegue", agregó López.

Rebasan inmigrantes capacidad de retención en centros de ICE

Tare Beltranchuc
Escritor Contribuyente

La crisis migratoria que se vive en la frontera Estados Unidos - México ha ocasionado la liberación masiva de familias migrantes en territorio americano.

La falta de capacidad de la Oficina de Inmigración y Aduanas (ICE) para retener al gran número de familias inmigrantes en los centros de detención, ha obligado a la Patrulla Fronteriza a desarrollar un plan para liberar a familias completas si el ICE no viene a recogerlos dentro de las 72 horas. De esta forma pretenden no violar el Acuerdo Flores (Flores Settlement).

Este convenio legal, "exige que los niños no pueden permanecer más de 72 horas en custodia de la Patrulla Fronteriza (excepto en circunstancias especiales)", subrayó Dara Lind de Vox.

La Patrulla Fronteriza, es la agencia a cargo del arresto de personas que entran a los Estados Unidos sin la documentación reglamentaria, en tanto ICE es responsable de detener a los inmigrantes indocumentados hasta que un juez federal decida su situación legal.

La crisis que se vive en los centros de arresto y detención ha tenido consecuencias trágicas. Recientemente, en Nuevo México, dos niños perdieron la vida bajo la custodia de la Patrulla Fronteriza.

La muerte de la niña Jakelin Caal Maquin el 8 de diciembre, ha cuestionado la responsabilidad de la Patrulla Fronteriza en proveer atención médica a los inmigrantes detenidos, así como su capacidad para atender emergencias médicas en áreas remotas de la frontera.

Felipe Alonzo-Gómez, el otro menor que falleció en Nuevo México tras ser detenido, había permanecido en custodia de la Patrulla Fronteriza por seis días, lo cual constituye una violación al Acuerdo Flores por parte de la agencia.

El problema fundamental es que el ICE y la Patrulla Fronteriza no están equipadas para ofrecer alternativas humanas a las familias inmigrantes. La administración de Trump se opone rotundamente a medidas más humanitarias ya que "cualquier esfuerzo para facilitar que una familia viva en los Estados Unidos mientras espera una audiencia

con inmigración motivaría a que más personas realicen peticiones fraudulentas de asilo", señaló el artículo.

El ICE normalmente se apoya en las organizaciones sin fines de lucro para proveer las necesidades básicas de las familias de inmigrantes que son liberadas. Estas agencias ofrecen hospedaje y los ayudan a llegar a donde necesitan ir.

Desafortunadamente, las organizaciones Annunciation House en El Paso, Catholic Charities y RAICES en el Rio Grande Valley, no tienen la capacidad para asistir a cientos de familias que serán liberadas. La agencia principal en El Paso, Annunciation House, ha estado operando más allá de su capacidad.

Mientras las agencias encargadas de la aprehensión y detención de inmigrantes deciden cuál es la mejor manera para asegurar que reciban la ayuda necesaria antes de su audiencia migratoria, las familias que están a punto de ser liberadas por el ICE o la Patrulla Fronteriza enfrentan varios problemas en un país desconocido y sin nadie que los ayude a llegar a donde necesitan ir.

Private Companies tend to relocate prisoners further away from home

By Richard Bonnie Evans
Journalism Guild Writer

For-profit prison companies are moving more prisoners far away from their homes and families, *Bloomberg News* reports.

"It's a business and the prisoners are the cogs in that machine....It's not about what's best for the prisoners; it's about how do you run a profitable (prison) enterprise," said Michele Deitch, senior lecturer at the LBJ School and the School of Law at the University of Texas, Austin.

Moving prisoners far from their homes makes it more likely they will commit crimes again, Deitch said. "Prisoners allowed in-person visitation are 25 percent less likely to commit a criminal offense post-release, according to a 2016 study by researcher at Sam Houston State University," the story reported.

Bloomberg noted the for-profit prison company CoreCivic, Inc. has moved prisoners from Puerto Rico to the mainland. Puerto Rico prisoners must volunteer before being transferred out of the territory, said Eric Rolon, secretary of Puerto Rico's Department of Corrections.

In 2012 inmates from Puerto Rico were transferred to a CoreCivic U.S. location, and there was clashing between them and local prisoners, the story said.

While government clients see for-profit prisons as a means to ease overcrowding and save money, the prisoner's experience is of being far away from home, family and legal counsel. An example is Puerto Rican Giovannie Marrero, who is doing a 20 year term for domestic assault.

He will be transferred to a CoreCivic facility in Missis-

sippi, 1,800 miles away from his home. What is a "real opportunity" for clients is a negative experience for prisoners and their families.

Bloomberg News reported most state prisoners are jailed 100 miles from their home, while prisoners from Puerto Rico face being transferred 1,800 miles across the waters of the Mexican Gulf.

CoreCivic spokeswoman Amanda Gilchrist said the company's anti-recidivism efforts provide for education, job training, addiction counseling and reentry programs -- all of that beyond the requirements of their contracts.

For Puerto Rico, sending their prisoners to a for-profit facility will save the bankrupt commonwealth island money, *Bloomberg* noted. According to Secretary Rolon, this could mean as much as \$50 million annually.

Social worker addresses inflated health risk to those released from prison

By Charles Stanley Longley
Journalism Guild Writer

Anna Steiner warns that going home from prison can be hazardous to your health. Steiner is a social worker and medical discharge planner at San Quentin.

"Individuals being released from prison are at a high risk of dying within the first two weeks of release," Steiner told the San Quentin News. "These risks are from causes such as drug overdose, heart attack and cancer."

Steiner runs a San Quentin medical discharge clinic for chronically ill prisoners who will soon be going home.

Steiner's goal is to educate inmates about their right to health care and connect them to the best resources for coping with hepatitis C, diabetes, hypertension or behavioral health conditions, mental health and substance abuse.

Only a health care provider in the community is qualified to address these issues, so Steiner gives clients copies of their most recent San Quentin medical records, talks to

them about health insurance, such as MediCal, gives lectures about overdose prevention, and provides instruction about how to get medications refilled.

She can also connect individuals with a primary care physician and other resources in their community.

Mainline prisoners are often unaware that a medical discharge planner works at San Quentin Prison.

Steiner's employer is Transitions Clinic Network (TCN), which is a national network of community health care clinics that has a special program for the formerly incarcerated.

"People who have experienced incarceration many times come from communities where access to health care is limited, if at all available. They may only see a doctor when they are incarcerated and have had negative experiences with health care, inside and out.

"I want to make sure that people who are returning home know where to go to get the services they deserve. We're also working to make

sure that doctors in the community know how to best serve individuals coming home to help with a healthy and successful reentry."

Each TCN clinic employs a community health care worker with a personal history of incarceration as part of the clinic team. These community workers include many who have felony convictions and have successfully reentered the community themselves.

Besides securing better service for recently released prisoners, TCN's mission includes obtaining meaningful jobs for people with histories of incarceration.

Steiner will see any chronically ill person within three months of release. Her clients are referred directly by medical staff at San Quentin, or an inmate may sign up on sheets posted in each housing unit.

Persons who have immigration (ICE) holds are encouraged to enroll as well.

Steiner visits San Quentin on Wednesdays, and clients get priority based on date of release and severity of health needs.

Unlicensed civilians working as paid reserve police officers

By Anthony Manuel
Carvalho
Journalism Guild Writer

At least 3,000 unlicensed civilians are working as paid reserve police officers in

Michigan with little or no controls in place, *The Detroit Free Press* reports.

The newspaper reported its investigation showed unregulated, armed civilians are policing communities

and even assisting real officers while carrying weapons.

This lack of oversight continues despite numerous incidents of questionable — even illegal — conduct

by reserve officers in recent years, the *Free Press* reported Oct. 24.

These aspiring law enforcement representatives are governed without any state-established training; have inconsistent or no standards for screening of new hires; and perform required protocol where monitoring has not yet been established to structure their behavior.

The investigation is believed to be the first accounting for this group of officers anywhere. The newspaper said it obtained the information legally in 2017, a year after the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) was granted the authority to license and train officers. The study revealed that the agency has no immediate plans to take on administrative responsibilities.

The potential danger is illustrated by Dave Harvey, former executive director of MCOLES.

“You have a person carrying a gun who can take someone’s life in the right circumstances, someone who has a badge and authority, who can take away their personal freedoms against the Constitution,” Harvey told the newspaper.

“That’s a lot of power, just as much as a doctor has when they have a scalpel leaning over you. You

wouldn’t have an untrained person opening your gut.”

This raises issues such as budget reductions and more pressing objectives, said the new executive director of MCOLES, Tim Bourgeois. “We just simply haven’t had time to get to it yet,” he said.

Many reserves do contribute to the safeguarding of their communities and enjoy helping with minimal responsibilities, the story noted. Examples include traffic control, crowd patrol and sharing a beat with a real officer.

“...a badge,
doesn’t mean
you understand
law enforcement...”

The story pointed to two incidents as examples of problems: Jarvis Daniel, who completed a reserve training program in Highland Park, in May 2014, and John Raterink, a reserve officer with Barry Township and a special deputy with the Barry County Sheriff’s posse.

Daniel was a convicted felon and still on parole for a 2003 home invasion

when he became a reserve officer. Raterink was hired despite confirmed ties to a reputed White supremacist hate group as designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Mistakes like these cannot be measured nationally, the newspaper said. The International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards & Training surveyed states about their regulations of reserve officers. Only 24 agencies responded. Of the 24, more than half reported state mandated training standards for reserve officers.

California has three levels of state-regulated reserve officers. They require training hours ranging from 144 to 670 (the same as an officer), depending on their responsibilities.

The importance of public trust was stressed by Tim Bunting, deputy director for the Nevada Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. “(A reserve peace officer is) still wearing a uniform representing that agency. In a lot of people’s eyes, they see a reserve, they see a peace officer. They don’t differentiate.”

Leelanau County (Mich.) Sheriff Michael Borkovich does not allow reserves on the streets. “Just because you have a badge, doesn’t mean you understand law enforcement. This is not a hobby.”

Elderly prisoners in India granted early parole

By Aron Roy
Journalism Guild Writer

Some elderly prisoners in India may be granted early parole because of major overcrowding, according to an article in *Hindustan Times*.

Prisons in the state of Uttar Pradesh currently hold 60,504 prisoners, compared to against a designed capacity of 35,870, the article reported.

The state government is implementing measures to evaluate whether certain elderly inmates serving life sentences should be released on the grounds that they no longer pose a threat to society.

“May God grant me release from the world,” said a 92-year-old prisoner known as Babu, translated from his native tongue: “Bhagwan humko utha le ab.”

Babu is too frail to accomplish basic tasks such as using the bathroom or eating without help, said the article. Babu has been incarcerated for nearly 25 years.

Lal Singh, 90, is another prisoner who might benefit

from early release. Singh is blind and suffers from various other ailments. He has been locked up close to three decades.

Inmates are currently dying in overcrowded facilities due to a lack of basic medical treatment, said the article. The new policy lists conditions for early release, including an inmate’s age and time spent incarcerated.

“Scores of old, infirm and seriously ill inmates, who no longer pose a threat to the society, are stuffed in jails for lack of a proper policy, and now they all have hope of release,” said BR Verma, a deputy inspector general.

The new guidelines allow male convicts to petition for parole after serving 16 years and women can petition after serving 14 years.

All inmates can petition for early release after they have served 12 years, if they are more than 70 years old and after serving 10 years if they are over 80.

The law specifically excludes certain convicts such as mass murderers (three or more killings), professional killers, terrorists, non-Indi-

an citizens, inmates serving multiple life sentences, or inmates who have tried to escape.

The policy also provides guidelines for certain inmates who are suffering from a specific list of serious and incurable diseases and have served at least 10 years of their sentence.

All lifers’ petitions will be evaluated by a state level committee, and all inmates released must post a bond as a guarantee of continued lawful conduct, said the article.

Abhilasha Singh had these comments on the potential release of her father, Lal Singh:

“I visited him in jail in November 2017. He is on a wheelchair and could not even lift his hand to bless me. If he is released, I will take care of him. We are five sisters in all. Four of us were married off by my mother as my father never got parole to attend even our wedding.

“I know that he will not live long. But I will be able to take care of him in his last days.”

More than 4,000 mentally ill prisoners held in isolation

By Amir Shabazz
Journalism Guild Writer

More than 4,000 prisoners diagnosed with mental illness throughout the country are being held in solitary lock-up, according to *The Guardian*.

Confinement intensifies their illness. Despite U.S. prisons having this knowledge, this practice continues, the article said.

“This is tragic,” said Judith Resnik, a professor of law at Yale University. She is the director of the Arthur Liman Center. “Solitary confinement is a disabling setting that is harmful for human health and safety. It can do harm for people who are mentally OK and inflict terrible damage on people who are already mentally ill.”

Yale researchers, along with the Association of State Correctional Admin-

istrators (ASCA), revealed that this terrifying experience among prisoners is very prevalent, according to the article.

The ASCA and Yale researchers stated that the mentally impaired are kept in isolation at least 22 hours a day for more than two weeks.

These researchers found that out of the 33 states who responded to their survey, only one state, Texas, said that they have no mental health patients in solitary.

More than a third of the states that replied stated that 10 percent of male prisoners with mental illness are locked-down. Missouri had the highest number, 703 men, while New Mexico had the highest proportion at 64 percent.

Colorado is one of the success stories. The state has new rules in play. When prisoners are diagnosed

with mental illnesses they are treated for their illness instead of being confined.

Recently U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor issued an opinion in a case the court declined to hear. She said she was “deeply troubled” by the ongoing practice. She wrote that “solitary confinement imprints on those that it clutches a wide range of psychological scars.”

The amount of time spent in isolation remains high. Spending 22 hours a day in a cell measured 6 feet by 9 feet takes its toll, said the article.

The survey said that the number of mentally ill in lock-up is declining and that since 2014 the segregated population has fallen from 100,000 to 61,000 as of last year.

Progress remains mixed, however, as numbers in 11 states have increased.

10-year-old girl with cerebral palsy arrested by ICE

By Timothy Hicks
Staff Writer

After a 10-year-old girl with cerebral palsy left a Texas hospital for treatment in October 2017, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested her, *The Guardian* reported.

The arrest happened because five days after Donald J. Trump took office, he signed an executive order that changed the focus of ICE deportations from undocumented immigrants with criminal records to every undocumented immigrant.

The result of the policy is that ICE is arresting more people with no criminal record than ever before, according to *The Guardian*.

In October 2017, the number of those arrested by ICE with no criminal record was almost 40,000. The year before then it was less than 20,000. As of June 30, 2018, it’s 58 percent of the now almost 45,000 people held by ICE, *The Guardian* reports.

“Why would you take that budget that’s limited and not

use it to say we’re going to go after the worst people who are illegal and here?” said Alonzo Peña, former ICE deputy director, and its predecessor, the U.S. Customs Service, since 1984.

Peña raised a question, “The target goal (for ICE to arrest) is the 12 million people who are here illegally. Why are you going to target a little girl with cerebral palsy?”

“Most of the 20,000 ICE employees oppose some of Trumps immigration policies, such as family separation.”

Another undocumented immigrant arrested by ICE was New York City resident Pablo Villavicencio, a father of two who worked as a pizza delivery man.

Villavicencio had applied for a green card but when he went to deliver a lunch order to an Army base, ICE arrested him. The case was fast-tracked for deportation but dropped after it received media attention, *The Guardian* reported.

“The idea is to try to send the message to communities

that everybody is at risk of deportation by arresting all sorts of people who are no kind of threat,” said Omar Jadwat, director of the ACLU Immigrants’ Right Project.

The ICE tactics have made it a target by lawyers, said *The Guardian*.

“What they would like to do is deport people and skip the whole legal process right,” said ACLU’s Jadwat. “That was the idea initially behind this and I think their legal position is still they can sweep these people up and put them on a plane and they’re gone before you know it.”

“It’s only because we and other lawyers have stepped up and said you have to provide some due process before you ship someone to a place where their lives could be in danger that they haven’t been able to kind of send people abroad immediately.”

A lawsuit was also filed on behalf of 1,900 Cambodian refugees by the Asian Law Caucus, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Los Angeles (AAJC) and Sidney Austin LLP.

Noncitizens allowed to vote in local San Francisco elections

San Francisco became the largest city in the nation to allow noncitizens to vote in local elections, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Noncitizens were only allowed to vote Nov. 6 for a single school board race. That was widely criticized by conservatives. The Times reported that only a little more than 40 noncitizens had registered to vote by Oct. 28.

The change carries symbolic force, according to

Louis Desipio, a professor of political science at the University of California at Irvine.

He said, “It will speak to that sort of sense that change is coming to the United States and that change is being done extra-legally somehow.”

The chance to vote as a noncitizen is a result of a measure that passed in San Francisco in 2016.

“Noncitizen voting is a very contentious issue,” said

opponent Robin Hvidston, executive director of We the People Rising, a Claremont organization that lobbies for stricter immigration enforcement. “The move to extend voting rights to those illegally residing in San Francisco has the potential to backfire among citizens with a moderate stance on illegal immigration.”

Shamman Walton, a San Francisco Unified School District commissioner, pre-

sented a resolution in support of the measure in 2016 and told the Times that he doesn’t buy the rhetoric from the right.

“At the end of the day, for me it’s important that families who have children in our schools... have a say,” Walton said.

There is no record of how many students and parents in the school district are noncitizens. But according to the district’s website, 29 per-

cent of its 54,063 students are English-language learners. Additionally, a 2017 Pew Research report estimated 35,000 people without legal status live in San Francisco.

Joshua A. Douglas, a professor at the University of Kentucky College of Law who specializes in election law and voting rights, said that San Francisco’s expansion of voting rights is part of a greater resurgence to allow noncitizens to vote in

more local races.

Douglas said Takoma Park in Maryland has allowed noncitizens to vote in local elections for years. Allowing noncitizen voting has a long history in the United States, according to Douglas. “Noncitizen voting was not considered all that radical until a backlash during post World War I,” he said.

—Anthony Manuel
Carvalho

Valley State Prison holds second annual YOP graduation

By Victor Trujillo
Contributing writer

On January 9th 2019, valley state prison (VSP) held its second annual youth offender program (YOP) graduation to recognize the graduating YOP class of 2019 for completion of a year dedicated to their rehabilitation. It was a great day for all those who attended.

Those in attendance included R. Fisher, jr. (VSP warden) and his administration, VSP staff, 75 YOP graduates, who also had the opportunity to invite two family members each to celebrate their accomplishment, and about 30 guests from various outside organizations. Although all guests were appreciated, one guest in particular stood out - he was the keynote speaker, Andy Vences, a WBC super featherweight champion with a record of 21w, 0l, 12 ko,

Idraw, 22 bouts!

The graduation began with a warm welcome and introduction from e. Alva to all guests and family members. Ms. Alva shared highlights of the VSP YOP program. Ms. Alva explained how each graduate took part in a cognitive behavioral therapy curriculum throughout the year, and encouraged each graduate to be very proud of themselves for their commitment to stay the course. R. Fisher, jr. (VSP warden) spoke to the crowd congratulating them and reminding them to "not count the days to their release date, rather to insure that each day counts by doing something positive."

V. Trillo, YOP lead inmate facilitator, gave a brief speech on rehabilitation and inspired each participant to continue to accept responsibility for their actions and to restore themselves to integrity in how they live their lives.

After delivering his speech, Trillo introduced the YOP obedience dogs and the inmate dog trainers to perform. C. Gonzalez and his dog bella took to the floor followed by a. Vivero and his dog yeti and d. Grant and his dog remi. This part of the program was a crowd pleaser and all did an awesome job demonstrating basic commands.

S. Monroe, volunteer dog trainer, then proudly addressed the crowd about the hard work the youth offenders and mentors are doing by training the former shelter YOP dogs to become therapy dogs to be adopted by loving families. The gymnasium was filled with positive energy following the YOP dog performance and the energy continued to build as the champ, a. Vences, delivered a powerful message focusing on the mental aspect of life.

His message was that ob-

stacles do arise for everyone as they move forward, but having mental strength and determination allows each of us to overcome and learn from these obstacles. His speech touched all as he shared his own obstacles and struggles and how he overcame them by being mentally strong and remaining committed to his goals and dreams.

After the champ finished encouraging the young men to continue to keep strong, k. Kilber, YOP facilitator, and r. Edwards, YOP mentor, blew the roof off the gymnasium with a musical performance entitled "YOP" Hands were clapping, feet stomping and bodies moving to the beat as the lyrics echoed from the speakers at each corner of the gym. Smiles were evident on everyone's faces as Kilber and Edwards proudly dropped the mics and thanked the administration

for having a program like the YOP in which they were able to join in the growth of the YOP's, while also showcasing their talent.

B. Hernandez, YOP resource officer, kept the positive energy flowing as he delivered his speech focusing on motivating graduates and mentors to take the next positive step and stepping up in their lives to become successful. He ended his speech by giving an example of what stepping up means by introducing the next guest speaker, C. Broadnax, who was formerly incarcerated at VSP and worked under c.o. Hernandez as the YOP lead facilitator. Broadnax and fellow formerly incarcerated inmates, E. Dey, K. Chandler and A. Trevino all delivered impactful speeches relaying their experiences as law abiding, productive citizens living fulfilling lives. One by one they encouraged the

graduates to reach their full potential.

YOP inmate facilitators, D. Fedorenko, I. Berkson, j. Debacco, j. Hader and j.miller all gave speeches reflecting upon their personal life stories, and how each is honored to teach and mentor the YOP participants. They also introduced the following yop graduates to deliver their speeches: N. Riggs, D. Grant, T. Medina, Z. Aisporna, N. Ortega and V. Mendez, all of whom spoke about their positive growth experiences in the yop program and how the curriculum and support has encouraged them, even in difficult times.

Our final guest speakers were K. Dinsmoor, H. Lazar, B. Van sickle and B. Vazquez from the nonprofit group, reevolution. Reevolution sponsors the YOP junior mentor leadership program. This program is the first of its kind and gives graduating yop participants the opportunity to continue their rehabilitation by participating in a unique leadership training program. The program is designed to take place over a two-year period with the ultimate goal being that junior mentors become mentors upon completion. 15 junior mentors were recognized for their one year participation in this program. P. Galloway, junior mentor facilitator, congratulated all 15 of these young men as they made their way to the stage to demonstrate to the crowd that unity and commitment is at the forefront of their rehabilitation.

Once the speeches wrapped up, the actual graduating ceremony commenced with E. Alva calling up to the front all graduates one by one to receive their certificates.

Cake and punch were served and visiting ensued with lots of laughter and pride until the event concluded at 2:30 pm.

We would like to extend full appreciation to all who helped make this event possible, and thank all guests and family members for their attendance and support.



Inmate dog trainers with Bella

Photos by E. Vang, CC1



E. Alva, Juan Garcia and YOP Resource Officer B. Hernandez

Photos by E. Vang, CC1



WBC super featherweight champion Andy Vences with facilitators and participants of the YOP program

Photos by E. Vang, CC1

Dealing with an unexpected loss of a loved one

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

For the most part, incarcerated people aren't worried about the impact of social media—we're disconnected. And, if I walk around the prison yard 100 times and talk to dozens of my fellow inmates, I'd be lucky to find one who'd know that Sheryl Sandberg is the chief operating officer of Facebook. That being said, all of my fellow prisoners could connect with Sandberg's grief—the sudden and unexpected loss of a loved one.

After her husband died, Sandberg wrote *Option B* (2017), an incredibly open and honest book about her family's struggle through grief. She's talked to dozens of professionals, cited numerous studies and brought us into her family to ease the pain and let readers know that joy is still possible after terrible times.

To get an understanding of Sandberg's mind-set about grief, she sets some ground rules, such as "The first noble truth of Buddhism is that all life involves suffering."

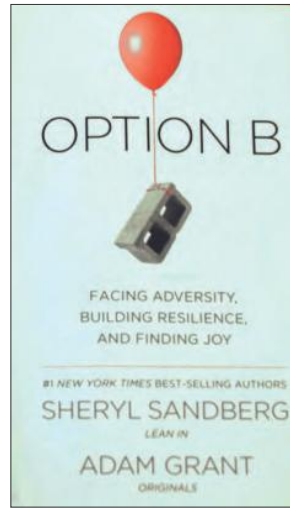
Talking about suffering and feelings are both important to Sandberg.

"Silence can increase suf-

fering," she writes, "There's powerful evidence that opening up about traumatic events can improve mental and physical health."

Another theme in *Option B* is hope. "Hope keeps people from giving in to despair," Sandberg writes. Processing and respecting one's feelings also chimes into Sandberg's desire to offer and find happiness.

For many prisoners, when a loved one dies, there's a call that summons the inmate to an office. The inmate is asked to take a seat. At that point, sometimes the inmate knows what's about to happen. The person is given the bad news and asked if he or



Author Sheryl Sandberg and co-writer Adam Grant

she wants to make a phone call. Mental Health checks in with the person, fellow inmates lend a shoulder, and he or she has to continue doing the time.

After that loss, hope comes from a willingness to change—to live a respectful life, to get out and see the gravesite of a beloved family member. It becomes motivational.

Sandberg also has advice for friends of people who've lost a loved one. "Simply showing up for a friend can make a huge difference...the most powerful thing you can do is acknowledge."

"When someone is suffering, instead of following the Golden Rule, we need to follow the Platinum Rule: treat other as they want to be treated," Sandberg writes.

She notes two emotional responses to the pain of others: "Empathy, which motivates us to help, and distress, which motivates us to avoid." She adds, "Withholding comfort actually added to the pain."

Sandberg cites Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl, "When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves." She also recognizes

Helen Keller's quote, "When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

When I reflect on the loved ones that I've lost during my more than two decades of incarceration, even still, Sandberg's book is comforting. Moreover, it has helped me be a better friend to people I know who've lost loved ones. It has allowed me to just sit and listen to the wonderful people who are not forgotten by some incredible people doing time in prison.



NEWS BRIEFS

1. South Carolina —There were at least 10 suicides in the state's prisons last year—the cause of two deaths have not yet been determined, reports *The Post and Courier*. In addition, there were nine homicides—including seven at Lee Correctional, making last year the deadliest year in the history of the state's prisons. Prison homicides and suicides have risen in the state for at least five years in a row even as the inmate population declined.

2. Cleveland, Ohio —The state's prison system is so short of staff that interns evaluate the state's correctional facilities, *The Plain Dealer* reports. The administrative staff of the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee has just one full-time employee. Five years ago, it had six. Because of the employee shortage, the staff struggles to write and disseminate reports to legislators and the public on the state's 27 prisons and three juvenile facilities, according to interviews and a review of records.

3. USA —More states plan to count state prisoners as residents of their home communities, rather than residents of the places where they are incarcerated, *The Pew Charitable Trusts* reports. Counting prisoners as residents of their hometowns would boost the legislative representation of Democratic-leaning urban areas with large minority populations while weakening the power of Republican, mostly White rural areas, *Pew* reports. New York and Maryland made the change after the 2010 census, and California and Delaware will start with the next redistricting cycle after the 2020 count. Connecticut, Rhode

Island and New Jersey could follow suit.

4. USA —The length of a prisoner's incarceration in the federal prison system largely depends on how the sentencing judge exercises his or her discretion, according to a new report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission. The commission examined federal district judges in 30 cities and found that the length of sentences for the same crime could vary greatly—as much as 63 percent—between judges in the same city. The goal of the Commission's report was to assess the impacts of the a U.S. Supreme Court decision, which abolished part of the federal sentencing statute that restricted federal judges to imposing sentences within mandatory guidelines.

5. California — Quintin Morris, 53, was released from Folsom State Prison after being granted parole last year for a crime he always said he did not commit. The last dozen or so years the California Innocence Project assisted Morris fight his conviction for being one of the masked gunman who opened fire on four teenagers in the Pacoima area of the San Fernando Valley in November 1991. Records show police stopped Morris and his friends near the crime scene. Even though no scientific evidence linked him to the crime, one of the victims said that Morris was one of the masked gunmen. A jury convicted Morris in 1994, and he was sentenced to 33 years to life in prison.

6. Lincoln, Neb. —A Jan. 25 ruling by the state's highest court keeps Death Row inmates eligible for capital punishment, the *World-Herald Bureau* reports. The ACLU of Nebraska had argued that when the state Legislature repealed capital punishment in 2015, the law

was in effect long enough to convert the death sentences of the 11 men then on death row to life in prison. The civil rights organization claimed that the 2016 vote by Nebraskans to restore capital punishment pertained only to future cases.

7. Santa Fe, NM — More than 200 inmates in New Mexico are suing Securus Technologies Inc., the company that provides phone service to the state's prisons, because of an increase from about 3.25 cents to 8 cents per minute charge, according to *The Associated Press*.

8. Richmond, Va. — A bill approved Jan. 25, requires prison officials to, "notify visitors about the policy prohibiting menstrual cups and tampons ahead of their visit; provide visitors the option of removing any prohibited menstrual product and replacing it with a state-issued one in order to have a contact visit with an inmate; allow visitors who do not want to remove prohibited menstrual products the option of a no-contact visit with an inmate," *Capital News Service* reports.

9. USA — Hispanics in the United States are four times more likely than Whites to be incarcerated; twice as likely to live in poverty and about 50 percent more likely to be unemployed, *24/7 Wall St.* reports. Hispanic adults are also less likely to have completed high school or college and are far less likely than White Americans to be homeowners. The states with the lowest Hispanic homeownership are: Massachusetts (25.4 percent) Rhode Island (27.7 percent), New York (25.1 percent). The states with the highest poverty rates for Hispanics are: Rhode Island (28.9 percent), Pennsylvania (30.8 percent), North Carolina (30.1 percent).

A story of coming to terms with a three-strikes sentence



Photo by Eddie Herena SQN

Anthony Lasallie Coleman

Anthony Lasallie Coleman, 57, has been incarcerated since 1996, for constructive possession of guns and drugs. That means that although the items were not physically on his person, they were in a place deemed under his control.

Coleman said he rented a motel room where the police discovered the contraband—that was enough under Californian law for a conviction.

He was sentenced to 55 years to life under California's Three Strikes Law.

Since his incarceration, Coleman has come to terms with why he ended up in prison and what it will take to stay out, once released.

"All human beings need to be loved. I struggled with that coming up," Coleman said. "I grew up in the 1970s—the civil rights movements were just happening. I didn't feel like the world loved me, but as I got older, I learned that every human being needs to be loved, even my enemies."

Coleman said his incarceration experience began in the 1980s. He ended up at San Quentin's Tent City, in 1982, because of Kevin Cooper's escaped from Chino.

"San Quentin was considered the roughest prison in California, but it was also

known to have the best surgeons," Coleman said. "If you got stabbed, San Quentin was known to have the best care."

It was Coleman's first term—and he said he was a gang member.

"My image is dark, because of gangs," Coleman said. "I was young, and I was trying to become someone to be feared by rival gang members."

"every human being needs to be loved, even my enemies."

He said gangbanging kept him misdirected and consequently, from 1984 through the 90s, he in was in and out of prison multiple times.

In 1991, he was serving a parole violation in Chuckawalla State Prison. There, he met Todd Coleman.

"Todd changed my thinking and outlook on White people. He mentored me and later became a friend," Coleman said.

Todd Coleman introduced Anthony Coleman to a reentry program, called TOPS (Transition of Prisoners).

"He embedded my understanding of Christianity," Anthony Coleman said. "Seeing him doing the things he did gave me more insight about Christianity."

"Todd helped me change my thinking as I was searching for a change," Coleman said.

He got out, got married, got a "decent job," and began a family. "But when my mother died, I fell back into addiction," Coleman said.

This resulted in his current incarceration and sentence of 55 years to life.

Coleman said he struggled to come to terms with a long sentence and dim hopes of getting out of prison.

"I continued to use drugs and smoke," Coleman said. "But after my youngest son wrote me and told me that he was going through the same kind of drama that I went through—that woke me up"

Coleman said he rethought his life choices and enrolled in Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous and "actually worked the steps."

"I started back into my relation with God, which made me understand that I could be in prison for the rest of my life," Coleman said. "If that were going to be true, then I wanted to have a legacy."

First, he said he went back to school and earned his GED. His teachers recognized his efforts as well as an ability to communicate with younger inmates. He was asked to become a tutor—not only in academics, but also in life skills.

"I didn't think that I could do it, but I realized that I had chemistry with people," Coleman said. "Sometimes, people don't realize how hard it is for someone with criminal thinking to get an education. The simple things like having a subject and a verb to make a sentence. I had to learn these things."

Referring to being open and honest about his past mistakes, he added, "I teach youngsters about stupidity. I'm the poster child for stupidity, which is a stamp on my forehead for the stupid things that I did."

Since then, Coleman has left the education department, but he's still available to men on the prison yard for life lessons and, every now and then, to solve a math problem.

—Juan Haines

Running principles apply inside and outside the classroom

By Aaron Taylor
Contributing Writer

For an incarcerated American that is housed at the venerable San Quentin State Prison, the ability to be involved with sports activities is priceless. At The Q, the currently incarcerated, each weekend, have the ability to showcase their talents against members of the greater Bay Area community; from Basketball to Tennis, Soccer to Baseball, the inside and outside community play in games that are just as competitive as any game on the street.

The following individuals are housed at The Q, and wanted to share their experiences of being student/athletes.

Tommy Wickerd 51 years of age. Incarcerated for Assault on a Peace Officer, Assaulted With a Deadly Weapon (10yr), followed by Voluntary Manslaughter. He has currently served 18 years.

Taylor: How do you balance sports and academics at

The Q?

Tommy: If I don't buckle down and do my school work, I can't train; if I can't train, I can't run. If I talk mess to a correction officer (CO), I'll be in ad-seg (Administrative Segregation) and can't run... so, my focus is getting my school work done in doubles, just so I can train, which keeps me away from confrontations with staff.

Taylor: Is it difficult navigating through the daily grind of doing time while seeking to better yourself?

Tommy: When I get up, I spend time with God every morning for the past 17yrs, Daily Bread and Jesus Calling. Then, I write my wife, every day for the past 17yrs; I let her know, every day what I'm doing and how I'm doing it. In marriage, one must communicate with the spouse, so I talk to my wife everyday through the mail.

Taylor: What Self-Help groups are you in and which one has had the most impact on changing how you view your old self?

Tommy: Alliance For

Change, Restorative Justice, SQUIRES, KID-CAT (mentor), and C.G.A. (Criminals and Gangsters Anonymous); At CSP-LAC, I was with C.R.O.P. (Convicts Reaching Out to People), P.A.P. (Prisoner Art Program), where we made art that we auctioned off, with 100% of the proceeds going to Battered Women and Abused Children programs, as well as Veterans and California Fire Fighters.

CGA is having the most impact because the 12-Steps within the program and my mentor (Tony); he may be Black, but he speaks my language and he's just like me, so he's guiding me through what it takes reach within and be my authentic self.

Taylor: In doing these groups, tell the readers how this impacts the person that committed these crimes you're incarcerated for:

Tommy: Without The Q, I had to live by yard rules only;



Photo by Jonath Mathews, courtesy of Christine Yoo

Tommy Wickerd, Steven Brooks and Alvin Timbol

we have the Title 15 (California Codes of Regulations, Title 15, Div. 3 Crime Prevention) and you have Yard Rules. I didn't care about the Title 15, I only cared about yard rules. I didn't care.

Since arriving at The Q,

the racial politics are all but nil, so many of the yard rules I'd been used to no longer applied, which gave me the freedom to be my authentic self... you have to go through something to get to The Q, and many don't appreciate

the journey. I do.

My wife died in a car accident in 2004. You know (catching his breath, pausing to gather himself)... it forced me to do some deep introspection; it forced me to be a good parent because I had a son. I couldn't be a good parent from prison doing what I was doing.

Taylor: What sports are you involved in?

Tommy: Long Distance Running in the 1,000 mile club. I never ran until I got to The Q. I'm not in prison when I run, I'm focused on my body, my mind... there's no drug, no gang, nothing better than running. Every time I'm running, I'm asking God "Please let me get another lap in because I'm ready to stop!"

Taylor: You get the chance to speak to your 14 year old self again, one on one, what do you tell yourself?

Tommy: When this guy, offers your dope? Say 'No.'

Taylor: Is there anything you'd like to say to the people that you harmed in the past?

Tommy: "I'll never ask for forgiveness, because I don't think I deserve it, however, you can hold me accountable now. You can hold me accountable because, thanks to The Q, I've become a better person and a better parent. If not to my own son, to the young guys around me."



Photo by Eddie Herena

Paul Oliver on Kings bench

Paul Oliver retires from basketball at 62

By Aaron Taylor
Staff writer

Paul Oliver has been playing organized basketball as long as he can remember. However, in 2019, he's throwing his old Chuck Taylor's over the prison walls and transitioning to coaching.

"I want to sail boats and raise horses in Alberta (Canada) when I get out," Oliver said. "I want to teach these guys how to play the inside game; baseline drop steps, boxing out, the tangibles of the game that can extend their career as long as I've played."

At 62, Paul is still able to play at a high level. A 2-sport athlete here at The Q, he also is on the Inside Tennis Team.

His career spans across five decades.

From 1972-74, he played for Skyline High School in Oakland, Ca.

After graduating, he had an opportunity for a full scholarship to the University of Washington to play basketball, however, he chose a career in the Army, becoming a member of the 2nd 75th Ranger Battalion at Ft. Lewis.

Paul spent 10 years in the armed services.

He hit a course of bad situations that led him into the

Federal prison system, where he picked his game up again, playing in the PBA (Prison Basketball Association) against collegiate and semi-pro teams that came in from the public to play against the inmates.

"The competition was serious. Very serious. If you didn't have game, you wasn't getting on the court. There was also financial benefits... under the table of course," Oliver said with a huge smile. "I was never without anything I needed."

Oliver has played for the San Quentin Kings from 2009 - 2017, however, he spent one season with the San Quentin Warriors in 2011.

"Fundamentals," Oliver said. "That will keep any player viable for a long time, as well as taking care of your body. Allowing yourself to heal fully after injuries, having a good diet, and knowing when to listen to your body. You have to respect the game, and that's what I plan on teaching as assistant coach with the warriors this season."

Paul's veteran leadership will be needed this season on the coaching staff as the Warriors are making a change in head coaches this season.



Photo by Eddie Herena

Earl "The Pearl" Wilson joins the 2019 Kings team

Some of the top San Quentin athletes showed their talents for the annual tryouts for the prison's age 40 and older basketball team.

The Kings coaching staff picked a mix of returning veteran players with several new faces, putting the scrimmage teams in scenarios that tested each player's ability to gel in adverse situations.

"These situations are done to test how players respond emotionally, as well as to see what their basketball IQ is

like," said Head Coach Orlando Harris. "We have plays, but can you adapt quickly if a play breaks down?"

Another key strategy in the tryouts was to see how players responded to perceived bad calls by referees.

"Because we're playing against teams coming in from outside, our conduct is highly scrutinized," Harris said. "Bad calls are going to happen; that's part of the game, but how you respond to bad

calls matters huge in making this team."

"This is really organized, definitely the most organized I've ever seen at any prison," said 39-year-old Derrick Gray, who was looking for a position as a point guard on the team.

Veteran player Jamal "Do It All" Harrison made some big plays in the set scrimmages. Patrick "Nick Nasty" Shields, a 5-foot-10, 220-pound, undersized power forward, made some excel-

lent moves around the rim, making himself a key prospect to make the team.

Another new face to the Kings is Earl "The Pearl" Wilson, a fundamentally sound player who can play three positions and has a high basketball IQ. Wilson is well known to tennis players who come inside San Quentin to play against the Inside Tennis team.

The tryouts were held on Jan. 26-27, 2019.

—Aaron Taylor

Several new faces added to the Kings roster for the 2019 season



Photo by Eddie Herena

Trevor Woods returns to Kings for second season

Neang's 64-yard reception wins MLK Jr. Tournament

Kevin Neang caught a 64 yard touchdown pass up the left side of the field to win the MLK Jr Holiday Tournament, and seal himself as the back-to-back Most Valuable Player.

"Martin Luther King Jr. wasn't just fighting for the rights of Black people; he was fighting for the rights of all people," Neang said as all the players and game officials enjoyed sodas and snacks at the

conclusion of the game.

This was Neang's second win and his second MVP award as well.

Four teams consisting of five players each played in the Fast Track Passing League, Double Elimination tournament.

After the recent rains in California, the sun was out and the weather perfect, however, the field was a muddy

mess.

Even with the terrible footing, there was some big plays on the day that were worthy of the spirit behind the tournament.

Players representing several Asian countries and South Pacific Islands took part in the tournament in honor of their heritages as well as to pay homage to the struggles of equality for all people

in America and around the globe.

"This was a game, but much bigger than just a game," said one player during the game. "This was about giving people a chance you don't normally play football. It was about unity and recognizing a great man. It was about recognizing the greatness within ourselves as well."

—Aaron Taylor

Celebrating the contributions of athletic programs

**By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman**

The triumphs, defeats and the power of fellowship were on full display at San Quentin's Inaugural Athletics Assn. Banquet.

Kevin Rumon, volunteer track coach for the 1000 Mile Club and cancer survivor was honored. He was recognized for his resilience. While battling cancer and going through chemo, Rumon defied the odds and returned every Friday for the club races.

"I believed I had to surround myself with positive people," said Rumon. "I get a hundred times more out of this than I give and that's hard to explain to others."

"People would like to paint the world as good and bad or black and white, but it's also filled with good people who made bad decisions," Rumon added.

The Jan. 11 event recognized volunteers and participants.

After Rumon's emotional speech he stood in for team sponsor Frank Ruona, who had a prior engagement and could not attend, to pass out the club certificates.

Longtime volunteer Don Smith took home the Lifetime Achievement Award, which has been officially named after him. The head of Prison Sports Ministries, Smith has been volunteering in the prison for more than 20 years.

The organization brings in outside teams for basketball, football and softball games. One of their mottos is "fellowship for Jesus Christ through sports." Smith received a standing ovation as he received the top honor in front of his wife, his two adult children and more than 200 incarcerated athletes and guests.

"I think I'm the only one here volunteering to do a life-sentence," Smith said jokingly. "I can't accept this award alone, this is for the hundreds of people who have given up their Saturdays to make this

program happen."

"I think Don's involvement here is a privilege. He is always talking about the guys," said his wife. "I see how he has grown; he has a tender heart for the men here. It's good to see how he has become a part of the San Quentin community."

Andre Jackson, flag football sponsor for the "Chosen" team, which visits the prison, added "What Don is doing is remarkable, the sacrifices he makes - I wouldn't be volunteering here if it wasn't for him."

Mike Kremer, the baseball sponsor and volunteer and Aaron "Showtime" Taylor, San Quentin's resident sports announcer, emceed the event. Kremer sported a black tuxedo, giving the ceremony the feel of an award show. Taylor's comic humor and sharp wit kept the mood light and entertaining.

"Oh man, introducing 'Donnie Fabulous' as the first recipient of an award named after him, it was 'ginormous,' Don is my brother from the universal mother," said Taylor. "Don has been a huge piece to what we do here with sports, and is a very caring person."

"I haven't forgot Don. The last time you were on the court, you got your shot blocked," Taylor added, ribbing Smith.

The inmate track members, fresh off the season-ending marathon, walked with big smiles to the stage. Markelle Taylor took home the top prize for setting another record for the event and ultimately qualifying for the upcoming Boston Marathon (once he paroled). "Sports is viewed as just entertainment but not if you are participating in them, because it can show you your weaknesses and how to persevere," said Rumon.

The tennis team honored Martin, 87, their venerable volunteer, who in return passed out appreciation awards to the group. Dwight Kennedy, the

inmate coach of the "All-Madden" flag football team, thanked Kent Philpott, long-time baseball volunteer, for helping to resurrect the football program. He handed Jeremy Lewis III the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award for the team. Lewis led the squad in touchdowns and interceptions for the season.

Soccer player Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc, thanked outside volunteer Andrew Crawford for his tireless work to bring the program to the level of the other sports programs. He spoke passionately about how his teammates are benefitting from the new interaction with the outside teams.

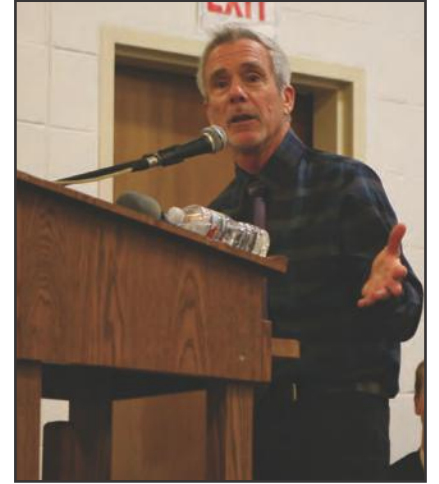
Dion Demerrill, catcher for the prison softball team the Hardtimers, provided one of the touching moments of the ceremony, when he received the Most Improved Player award.

"I feel real great about this accomplishment. It's a real big achievement to me. I thought I wasn't going to play sports again," said Demerrill. "In 2016, I was diagnosed with Lupus. I thought it was over for me."

"By them bringing all the sports together to have an achievement appreciation ceremony like this means the world to me. I feel on top of the world," he added. The inaugural event has



Mike Kramer and Anthony Redwood got an award



Don Smith giving his speech



Royce Rose handing Jaime "tre" Luis III football award



Ruth Grace received her recognition award from Terry Burton



Coach Martin at the podium presenting Paul "Black" Alleyne with an award



Rafael Cuevas, Smith and his wife



Ted Saltviet Oris Williams receiving an award

BASEBALL AWARDS

- MVP - Brendan Terrell
- Cy Young award - Rob Polzin
- Rookie of the Year - Juan Navarro
- Inmate Coach of the Year - Richard Williams
- Willie Mack award (Inspirational Player of the Year) - Anthony "Saadiq" Redwood
- Most Improve Player - Montrell McDuffie
- The honorary member award - 90 year old, Ruth Grace for team support

BASKETBALL AWARDS

- San Quentin Warriors "Keep the Faith Award" - Jeremy Johnson
- "I can Do that Award" - Joshua "JB" Burton
- "Let My Game Speak for itself Award (MVP) - Allen McIntosh
- "Lead from the Front Award" - Anthony Ammons
- "Give Me My Money Award" for Hustle and determination - Jamal

SAN QUENTIN KINGS

- Most Inspiration Player - Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc
- Intramural League MVP's - Kevin Fornette and Allen McIntosh

New handball duo dominates tournament

**By Steve Brooks
Contributing Writer**

A New Year's Day handball tournament on the Lower Yard at San Quentin led to new doubles champions.

"They couldn't stop the left," said David Clout Wilson, as the sun radiated down on his smiling face.

Clout, and handball partner Eric "E-Man" Post went undefeated in the tournament to take first place over the top four best teams. Their trophy was a statuette box of granola bars.

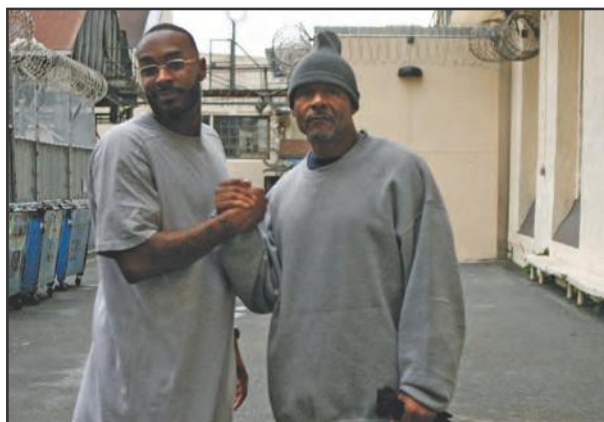
Jeff Williams and David

Mageo took second place. Williams, partnered with various other people over the years, has won several past tournaments.

It was a perfect day to play. A small gleeful crowd of about 20 handball enthusiasts gathered from 9 to 11:00 a.m. to take part in the competition.

Clout's winning strategy -- hit the ball so high his opponents couldn't reach it.

"I don't play handball. I play highball; I can reach the sixth pillar," said Clout, while pointing behind him to an old reddish-brown,



Handball tournament winners David Clout Wilson and Eric Post

chimney-like brick pillar protruding above the wall beside the handball court. The pillar is about 40-50 yards from the handball wall.

Clout hit the ball so hard, it flew past his opponents like a cannon shot.

Post and Clout recently teamed up after discovering, through playing each other, that they were two of the best players on the yard.

"We play each other all the time, and I always beat him," Post said grinning.

According to Post, he coaches Clout, who is

6-foot-4 and 230 pounds, how to use not only his power and height, but strategy, to beat his opponents.

Both Clout and Post love the game. Clout said it helps him build camaraderie, and it relieves stress. Fellow handball players, like Mageo, have given Clout pairs of old sneakers to use on the handball court.

Post added that it's a game where OGs can still be a factor.

"It's (handball) not just a young man's game; it's a wise man's game," Post said.

CGA banquet graduation focuses on recovery and change



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Facilitators, former graduates and 2018 graduates CGA

**By Juan Haines
Senior Editor**

Dining on chicken and pizza, on Feb. 8, dozens of inmates picked up certificates after completing a program aimed at changing criminal thinking and putting gang life in the past.

The program, Criminal Gangs Anonymous (CGA) models itself after Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)—the first step—admitting that they've lost control of their life to gangs.

Tommy "Shakur" Ross has been a CGA facilitator since 2012.

"I really enjoy watching you guys doing the work," Ross told the graduating class II. There are seven circles of guys digging in doing the work. It's about you guys—that's how CGA has impacted my life."

Anthony "Tone" Waldrip said, "It took a Draconian law to stop me from destroying my community. What it did for me is that it made me pick up my bible, graduated college, become I plumber, and graduate of CGA. Had it

not been for three strikes, I'd still be involved in the mess walking in darkness."

Facilitator Somsak Uppashy added, "Through CGA I have learned that, if you put love and care in everything that you do, what you focus on it will come."

Uppashy was found suitable for parole and is scheduled for release.

"Treasure yourself and your family," Somsak added, "Don't waste time, do the programs and get a positive attitude and graduate."

Graduate Brain "Sharky" Holloway, 25, is serving a six-year sentence for robbery.

"I was blessed to come to San Quentin," he told his fellow graduates. "I changed my criminal thinking and racist thinking after a big black dude who took me in. He referred to Kenji "Kenzo" Jackson taking him under his wing.

"Now, I play interracial sports. Sports along with all the self-help have changed my ways of thinking I made it back to church and got Baptized last month. Because of CGA I am a better brother

and son."

Graduate Kevin Smith, 65 has been incarcerated 25 years. Smith is a three-striker convicted of being an ex-felon with a gun.

He's recently appeared before the board, was denied release and told to try again in five years. Smith said that the board recommended that he take programs that would help him with criminal thinking and anger management.

"In the past, I was very impulsive and I had no morals, or ethic," Smith said. "The biggest tool that I learned from this group is empathy—how to see from another person's perspective. Without learning empathy, I couldn't understand the harm that I did to people. It took these groups to see that there are tools to help me."

"They're supposed to be these tough guys, but you can feel the change—the transformation that has happened. They are like new men," said 65-year-old Charles Crowe who is serving a life sentence.

Crowe said Jackson, CGA lead peer facilitator, invited him to the graduation.

After a carjacking conviction, Jackson, 46, got his third strike—that was 18 years ago. He said that he has 10 years of good conduct.

Jackson came to San Quentin in 2012.

"I did my best not to come here," Jackson said. "I heard bad stories about here, but after I got here, the things I experienced is greatness."

Jackson said that a friend told him about CGA.

"I have a good open mind, so CGA sounded good. The more I went, the more interesting I found it to be. Then, I became a facilitator."

Jackson added, "We've come a long way — from one little class to hundreds graduating every year."

Dina Durano, Erin West, and Martha Ginsburg are the outside CGA supporters.

"Since 2011, been through three sponsors, but Erin stands out," Jackson said. "When it's raining outside, Erin is here. When everyone said they wouldn't come, Erin is here. Erin is our dog, she's down with us, She's right here with us."

The audience stood to give

Erin an ovation.

Jackson added, "If it weren't for Erin, there wouldn't be a CGA, she comes both days we have group."

West was awarded a certificate of appreciation.

"Criminals are not who you are," Erin said. "We are all brought into the world loving, but we were disconnected. You guys are on a journey to re-connect—you are on that journey, and I applaud you all."

Ginsburg took the stage to receive a certificate of appreciation.

"I learn so much from listening to your transformation," Ginsburg said. "I take a piece of you each week and share with my friends and family."

Jackson introduced Durano by affectionately calling her "Bruce Lee's little sister."

"I always say that you guys are my people," Durano said. She encouraged the men to continue programming and that she would assist their programming needs anyway she could.

"Have a deep commit-

ment, it's about programming. I want to make sure that you are taken care of," Durano said. "I truly believe that most of you want to program—don't worry about the credits, just program, even if they don't have credits, just program. Be selfless, that's all I can say."

Jackson gave a brief history about how the program transformed from Richard Mejico who got off Death Row and wanted to change his life. After meeting a nun who introduced him to AA, he felt like he could model CGA similarly. After taking the idea to the administration, inmates began enrolling and it grew from there.

Mejico got out of prison 2010, died 10 hours later. He didn't know that he had hepatitis-c.

Jackson closed the ceremony by saying to the graduates, "I hope you continue your recovery—think about change. It's a life time thing. Don't let go of it. You are our CGA brother."

Pointing at the facilitators, he concluded, "Don't forget these fine gentlemen."



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Michael W. Davis getting his certificate



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Sak Uppashy gets teary-eyed



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Graduates Anthony Durant and David Coulson



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Graduate Louis Bucao



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Facilitators Dina Durano, Erin West, and Mary Ginsburg



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Graduates having a good time at the banquet