

# San Quentin News



WRITTEN BY PRISONERS – ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE



VOL. 2018 NO. 7

July 2018 Edition 106

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 4,253



Photo by Earlone Woods, Ear Hustle

Nigel Poor of Ear Hustle and PUP Executive Director, Jody Lewen

## Chan Zuckerberg Initiative aids programs

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Associate Editor

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) will provide grant funding to the Prison University Project (PUP) and Ear Hustle, an award-winning podcast. Both organizations are based at San Quentin State Prison.

PUP offers more than 350 inmates the opportunity to earn their Associate of Arts degree inside prison. Ear Hustle allows inmates

to share their stories about what it's like to live in prison on a daily basis.

"We are thrilled to support Ear Hustle's efforts to connect with more listeners, and the Prison University Project's plan to create new educational opportunities for people in San Quentin," said Ana Zamora, criminal justice manager at CZI.

See **PROGRAMS** on page 5

## New bill would keep youth offenders out of adult prisons

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

Human Rights Watch (HRW) continues to back legislation that gives youthful offenders a second chance at life after committing

serious crimes.

Most recently, law changes in California have allowed offenders who were under age 25 when they committed the crime to seek a sentence review after serving between 15 and 25 years—depending on

the category of crime.

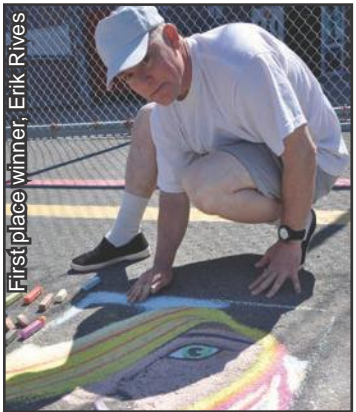
HRW is now working on new legislation geared to stop offenders 16 years old and younger from ever being sent to adult prisons.

See **NEW BILL** on page 4



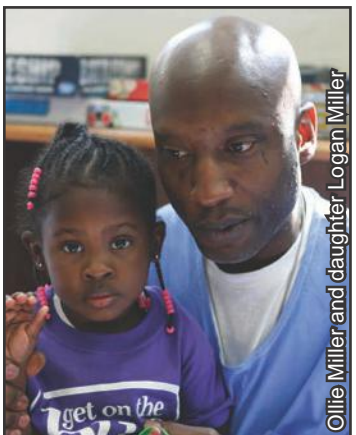
Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

HRW Senior Advocate Children's Rights, Elizabeth M. Calvin and Antoine Brown in SQ's Protestant Chapel



After nine days of quarantine, San Quentin celebrated its eighth Day of Peace on May 19. Live bands on a makeshift stage played classic rock, reggae and rhythm & blues to entertain hundreds of inmates as they mingled with dozens of community members and prison staffers.

Page 10



Ollie Miller and daughter Logan Miller

On June 1, incarcerated fathers started filing into the main visiting room for the annual Get on the Bus (GOTB) event, which brings families together for Mother's and Father's Day.

Page 9

## Voting rights for people with criminal convictions

By Mylan Gerbeyesus  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Who in California currently has the right to vote?

Eligible voters are citizens of the United States, 18 years of age or older as of Election Day.

But, what if you've been arrested or have a conviction?

"Many Californians mistakenly believe a criminal conviction keeps them from voting. Politicians bet on that fact to win elections," according to the Americans Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

So, let's set the record straight. You are eligible to vote if you:

- Are awaiting trial or are on trial for any crime;
- Are in jail for a misdemeanor;
- Are serving a county jail sentence under Realignment (AB 109);
- Are on probation, even if you are in jail as a condition of your probation;
- Are awaiting a judge's decision on a probation violation;
- Are completing your mandatory supervision or post-release community supervision;
- Have completed parole;
- Are a person with a juvenile wardship adjudication.

See **VOTE** on page 4



Photo courtesy of John Eagan

San Quentin News Adviser John Eagan at the ballot box



Photo by Jesse Vasquez, SQ News

Inmates interviewing with employers at seventh session of PEC

## 21 graduates ready to reenter the workforce

Twenty-two inmates graduated from the Prison to Employment Connection's (PEC) seventh session at San Quentin State Prison in May.

A week before graduation, the men did face-to-face interviews with employers looking to hire qualified formerly incarcerated citizens.

More than 40 men enrolled in the program in February to learn about interview skills, resumé writing and other forms of communication. In doing so, they were able to determine what career path was right for them upon release from prison.

"I was really excited to interview

with some of the employers that [originally] I didn't think I would want" (to work for), said inmate Robert Polzin, 42. He's been incarcerated two years. Polzin said he thought he'd be a welder but thinks he'd be a better supervisor.

Diana Williams, PEC's executive director, led the employers and guests into the prison's chapel, where the inmates lined up to greet them, shaking hands with friendly smiles. She reminded the men of what they've accomplished over the last 15 weeks. "You are so ready," she said.

See **EMPLOYMENT** on page 20

**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](http://sanquentinnews.com) or send a tax-deductible check or money order payable to:**



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

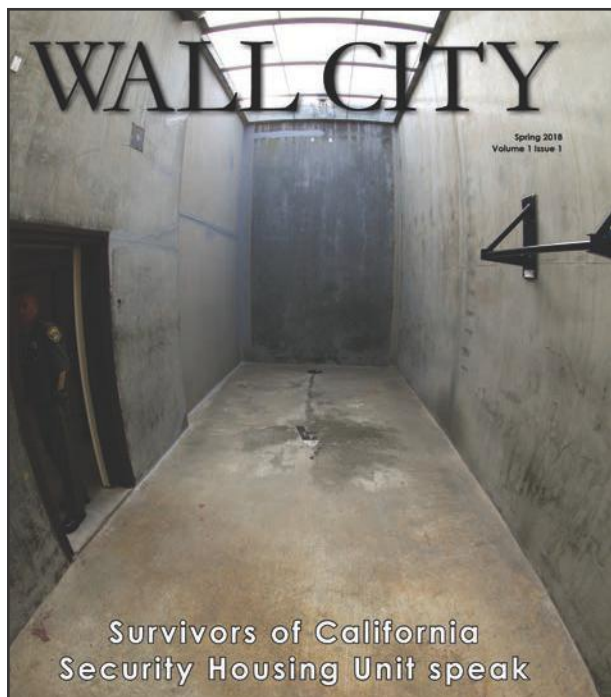


**In the check memo section, please write "Friends of San Quentin News."**

Thank you for your support!



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



# San Quentin mourns the loss of a long time friend and volunteer

By John Lam  
 Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin mourns the passing of one of its volunteers, Dr. Davida Coady, whose humanitarian work with Cesar Chavez, Mother Teresa and third-world countries has impacted disadvantaged children, refugees, addicts and lifers.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Coady," said Tith Ton, an inmate at San Quentin and addiction counselor trained by Dr. Coady.

"Forty years ago she provided medical aid to my mom in a refugee camp in Thailand. Forty years later, she taught me how to become an addiction counselor to provide treatment for others in prison."

Dr. Coady passed away May 3 from terminal cancer.

"For five decades and counting, the pediatrician-turned-international-health-activist-turned-substance-abuse-specialist has traveled around the planet, often at considerable personal risk, aiding populations in dire need," Columbia University Medicine reports.

The daughter of a coal miner, Dr. Coady found inspiration to pursue medicine after working a summer job at a camp for diabetic children.

After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, she tutored nurses in pharmacology at a hospital in Harbel, Liberia. Following her stint in Liberia, Dr. Coady completed her pediatric residency at UCLA.

While at UCLA, Dr. Coady was approached by civil rights activist Cesar Chavez about creating clinics.

Recalling her encounter with Chavez, she said, "OK, doctor, look," he told me. "I want you to understand that the health of farmworkers is not going to be markedly improved by your clinics. But your clinics will increase union membership and that will bring us better health conditions, toilets in the fields, better housing, sanitation, and laws to protect us."

"That totally changed my thinking," she added. "I realized that curative medicine is a political tool to bring about better health all around."

In 1968, Dr. Coady helped to avert a mass human catastrophe in Eastern Nigeria af-



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Dr. Davida Coady and her husband Tom Gorham

ter she successfully secured emergency airlifts of food, medicine and other necessities with the help of National Security Advisor Dr. Henry Kissinger.

In 1971, Dr. Coady went to Bangladesh after war broke out there. While in the field, she was approached by members of the World Health Organization to help eradicate smallpox in the slums of Calcutta, India.

Through that work, she met Mother Teresa, who assisted by providing 1,500 nuns under her tutelage to help locate cases of smallpox in the poor sectors of Calcutta.

Her team successfully eradicated the disease.

"Mother Teresa was a

master organizer and a master manipulator," Dr. Coady recalled with a note of awe in her voice in an interview with *Columbia Medicine*. "She dealt with every person seated around a big round table one at a time...And as I sat there waiting my turn, I realized that everybody came to her asking for something and went away having promised her something."

"She agreed to help us, and we promised, in turn, to vaccinate all the people in her feeding lines. And when we were done with our work, Mother Teresa said: 'Oh now, Lady Doctor, can you come work for us?'"

After decades of traveling around the world providing aid, Dr. Coady returned



to California in 1994 and shifted her focus to promoting recovery among addicts on the streets and among the incarcerated in California prisons.

"In 1997, she founded Options Recovery Services [in Berkeley] to assist substance and alcohol abusers, many homeless in and/or out of jail, to engage in effective recovery," *Columbia* reported.

In 2005, Dr. Coady and her husband, Tom Gorham, executive director of Options, took their passion to create a recovery program in San Quentin called Addiction Recovery Counseling (ARC) by training inmates to become state-certified addiction treatment counselors, the first in the nation to do so.

After hearing about the success of the Options program in San Quentin, Sol Irving, a former correctional officer turned correctional counselor, reached out to Dr. Coady and Gorham to set up a similar program in California State Prison-Solano, where he worked.

"The three teamed up in 2009, interviewing and selecting a core group of 50 inmates...to go through the rigorous curriculum of the Offender Mentor Certification Program," *Columbia* reported.

The training at Solano has since graduated hundreds of addiction counselors, many of whom are then sent to prisons throughout California to provide addiction treatment.

"The impact she had on all of us is incredible," said Lee Cooper, Dr. Coady's co-worker at Options. "She had no fear of anything. The compassion and love she had for people is amazing. She is irreplaceable and is missed by all of us."



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Dr. Coady and Tith Ton

# The cloud of capital punishment lingers in New Mexico

By Richard Solano  
Journalism Guild Writer

The only two inmates remaining on New Mexico's death row are fighting to have their death sentences overturned by the state Supreme Court.

The appeal claims that their sentences were arbitrary because worse crimes did not draw a death sentence.

New Mexico repealed capital punishment in 2009, but death sentences were

not commuted for Robert Fry and Timothy Allen, *The Associated Press (AP)* reported.

Gov. Bill Richardson signed the repeal without commuting their sentences. The state Supreme Court did agree to consider appeals of death sentences of Allen and Fry in 2013.

The court heard arguments for two hours in April. There was no order to stay the executions, and these men could be executed before a

decision is handed down, the *AP* noted.

Assistant Attorney General Victoria Wilson said, "We still find that this sentence is proportionate because the ultimate question is: was the sentence imposed arbitrarily?"

Fry was the last person sentenced to death in New Mexico. He was convicted of killing Betty Lee, the mother of five who was bludgeoned with a sledgehammer and stabbed. Fry was also

sentenced to life in prison for three other murders.

Allen was sentenced for kidnapping, attempted rape and strangling 17-year-old Sandra Phillips in 1994.

Attorneys defending Allen and Fry urged the court to consider more appalling murders that did not receive a death sentence.

Attorney Kathleen

McGarry stated "What we're looking at are cases that are far worse than Mr. Fry's case, and yet those persons are not going to be ... sentenced to death."

McGarry said, "How does that make Mr. Fry's death sentence be the poster child of what we're going to do here in New Mexico?"

Lawyers for Fry and Allen

have alleged that the death sentences violate state, federal and constitutional provisions against cruel and unusual punishment and equal protection guarantees.

Wilson states the sentence is proportionate because it was not imposed arbitrarily.

A decision can result in lighter sentences or the execution of two men.

## China grants furloughs for 1,300 pre-screened inmates

By Amir Shabazz  
Journalism Guild Writer

Roughly three decades after a furlough program was retired, the Chinese Ministry of Justice granted some prisoners a temporary release to attend family reunions with their loved ones for the country's Spring Festival holiday in February, according to the *China Daily*.

Approximately 1,300 prisoners from 300 penitentiaries around the country were screened to participate in the release program.

"Allowing inmates to temporarily leave prison to attend family reunions is a legal reward for inmates regulated by China's Prison Law," said Jiang Jinbing, director of the Jiangsu Prison Management Bureau, ac-

ording to the *Legal Daily*.

Still, it wasn't a simple break for inmates. Supervisors monitored the process for the reunions, including risk assessments and daily performance reports. Prisoners wore mandatory electronic bracelets attached to GPS devices, registered at the local police stations and checked in with prison officials daily, said the article.

Kan, whose last name was withheld, was one of the prisoners granted the release. Kan was sentenced to four years for leaving the scene of an accident that left one person dead and one injured.

At the reunion, Kan was choked with emotion when he saw his wife, mother, son and newborn grandson, the article said.

"They told me about the

news when they visited me in the prison, but seeing them with my eyes is a total different experience," said Kan. "I felt really sorry for my family and the victims."

"My wife and I shed tears when we talked about the years that I was absent, and she struggled to support the family," he added.

"Allowing inmates to temporarily leave prison to attend family reunions is a legal reward for inmates regulated by China's Prison Law"

During his visit home, Kan asked his son to visit and support his deceased victim's family as often as possible. Kan himself plans to compensate them after his release in a year.

The Chinese prison system abolished the reunion program in the 1980s due to technical and financial reasons, the *Beijing News* reported.

But with the encouragement from the country's Ministry of Justice to use various means to help with prison rehabilitation, some prisons relaunched the program in late 2017.

"Many of my cellmates envied my family reunion and said they will behave better to get such a chance," Kan said.

## Safe housing found essential for reentry

By Antoine L. Smith  
Journalism Guild Writer

The solution to New York's widespread problem of homeless former prisoners is to provide a safe place to live with support, according to *citylimits.org* reports.

The article points to a program by the Fortune Society in West Harlem for 62 formerly incarcerated homeless persons.

"Residents are required to be involved in 35 hours of constructive activities every week. They undergo daily drug screening. Each person living in our house is involved in group and individual counseling. They get

By Joe Garcia  
Journalism Guild Writer

Outside advocacy groups joined with Florida's prisoners in a protest called Operation PUSH to bring attention to the state's long history of overcharging for basic canteen items, while simultaneously underpaying its inmate workforce, reported a *PolitiFact Florida* article.

"One case of soup on the street costs \$4," PUSH said in an anonymous website statement. "It costs us \$17 on the inside. This is highway robbery without a gun."

In January, protesters rallied and picketed outside the Department of Corrections in Tallahassee to demand answers. They want Florida's DOC to justify its high canteen prices for things like ramen noodles and tampons, as well as its excessive phone rates, which can reach over \$8 for one 15-minute call.

"That's not surprising at all to hear, and that's something I've heard throughout my career," noted ACLU's Jackie Azis. "And I don't think it's exclusive to Florida."

"The only item that I find overpriced is probably the most popular item that inmates purchase huge quantities of, and that's the oriental-style dry soup noodles," said Ron Andrew, a former Florida state prison warden and consultant.

Florida prisons routinely sell the soups for 70 cents each, without the option to purchase them at any bulk rate discount.

PUSH organizers advocate nonviolent protest to end "prison slavery" and unscrupulous price-gouging at prison canteens. The movement further urges for legislative reforms that would offer parole incentives for lifers, restore voting rights to ex-felons, and

abolish the state's death penalty, reported an article in *The Nation*.

"We want to create an environment where someone can do their time, be rehabilitated, and enter into society with some type of hope," said one inmate activist under anonymity to avoid recrimination from DOC staff.

"One case of soup on the street costs \$4, ... It costs us \$17 on the inside. This is highway robbery without a gun."

Many prisoners' rights organizations support the Operation PUSH movement, including the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons, Supporting Prisoners and Real Change (SPARC), the national Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), and local Florida chapters of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA).

"The way to strike back is not with violence," wrote one PUSH inmate in an IWOC pamphlet distributed to approximately 1000 Florida prisoners. "If we show them violence they will have a legitimate excuse to use brute force against us."

Karen Smith, secretary of the Gainesville branch of IWOC, stated that some of the incarcerated contributing writers for the IWOC pamphlet faced repercussions and were subsequently placed in solitary confinement by DOC officials.

Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises (PRIDE) is a nonprofit corporation that operates within Florida's prison system and manages the manufacture of license plates, office furniture, uniforms and other such products. Inmate workers employed in state prison by PRIDE can earn a maximum of 55 cents per hour.

In 2009, a *Prison Legal News* article detailed the contractual scheme agreed to between Florida's DOC and the Keefe Commissary Network - a private for-profit company that sells its goods to prisoners nationwide.

Keefe committed itself contractually to pay FDOC almost \$1 a day for each and all of its roughly 100,000 inmates. That agreement equated to payments of almost \$3 million each month.

"Regardless of the amount of gross sales, the Contractor will compensate the Department in an amount of \$0.96 per day per inmate based on the Department's Average Daily Population," the contract stated. Also included in the 2009 contract was a scheduled 10 percent price increase annually for all commissary sales items.

A 1996 Florida law stated the prison commissary items "shall be priced comparatively with like items for retail sale at fair market prices." That same legislation was also responsible for redirecting canteen profits from the Inmate Welfare Fund to the state's General Revenue Fund.

Keefe no longer holds the Florida commissary contract. Trinity Services Group, Inc. currently operates statewide canteen services.

## Lawsuit alleges jailers misused food funds

By Charles Glasper  
Journalism Guild Writer

Stories about Alabama sheriffs getting rich off of money allocated for jailed inmates' food have sparked a lawsuit by two advocacy group, according to WBRC FOX6 News.

"Our ultimate goal is to make sure money earmarked for jail food is spent on jail food," said Frank Knaak, executive director of Applesseed Center for Law and Justice, one of two organizations that brought the suit. "There have been disturbing stories of sheriffs becoming rich off of money for jail food."

Applesseed and the Southern Center for Human Rights allege in their lawsuit that

49 Alabama sheriffs are violating Alabama's Public Records Laws by failing to disclose how they have profited from the funds meant to feed inmates, according to the article.

"Feeding inmates and illegal immigrants that are in this facility is my responsibility," Etowah County Sheriff Todd Entekin told WBRC. "At times, my wife and I have had to take out loans for the cost of these meals."

Sheriff Matt Gentry, who works in Alabama's Cullman County, told WBRC he supports changing the law that allows sheriffs to keep funds meant for inmates. But, he said ultimately that is an issue for voters to decide at the ballot box.

### San Quentin News

#### San Quentin News Staff

Richard Richardson, Editor-in-Chief  
Jesse Vasquez, Managing Editor  
Juan Haines, Senior Editor  
Kevin D. Sawyer, Associate Editor  
Marcus Henderson, Journalism Guild Chairman  
Rahsaan Thomas, Staff Writer  
Wesley Eisiminger, Staff Writer  
David Lê, Staff Writer  
Curtis Roberts, Staff Writer  
Wayne Boatwright, Staff Writer  
De'jon Joy, Staff Writer  
Juan Espinosa, Staff Writer  
Eddie Herena, Photographer  
Jonathan Chiu, Layout Designer  
Richard Lindsey, Researcher

#### Staff Administrative Review

Lt. S. Robinson, Warden's Office  
Sgt. R. Gardea, Warden's Office  
Krisi Khokhobashvili, CDCR Information Officer II (Supervisor)  
Linda Xiques, Adviser  
William Drummond, Adviser  
Jan Perry, Adviser  
Yukari Kane, Adviser  
Joan Lisetor, Adviser  
Stuart Wagner, Adviser  
Steve McNamara, Adviser  
John C. Eagan, Adviser  
Jon Spurlock, Adviser  
Sussane Karsh, Adviser  
Nikki Meredith, Adviser  
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.

# A chance to change is always welcomed

## EDITORIAL

By Richard 'Bonaru' Richardson  
Editor-in-Chief

At age 18, I was arrested and sent to Deuel Vocational Institution in 1992. Prisoners called it Tracy or "The Gladiator School."

It was my first time in prison. I didn't know anyone there. I was scared.

The established prisoners came up to me and asked, "Where you from? What's your name? What gang you in?"

Although I answered every question, I didn't really fit in anywhere, and I felt like I had to.

Since then, I've been to many prisons and hung out with different people. And, at every new prison, I was

asked the same questions all over again, "Where you from? What's your name? What gang you in?"

I hated answering those questions because it made me feel combative, and it categorized me.

I arrived at San Quentin in December 2007 from Soledad with a group of men reluctant to come here.

No one asked us those kinds of questions when we got here, but the San Quentin prisoners who were here when the Soledad bus arrived didn't give us a strong welcome.

One of the men who accompanied me from Soledad was Juan Haines, now *San Quentin News* Senior Editor.

Juan had that same uncomfortable feeling I had, but we didn't know why.

Juan recalled, "When I first got to San Quentin, my

cellie was stand-offish. I was looked at like an invader of a place where people wanted to protect something that I was unaware of. The most common comment was, "These three-strikers are going to ruin everything we worked for."

We were shunned and confused and didn't know why.

During my 11 years at San Quentin, the men from Soledad and those who came after us eventually became acclimated to "The San Quentin Culture."

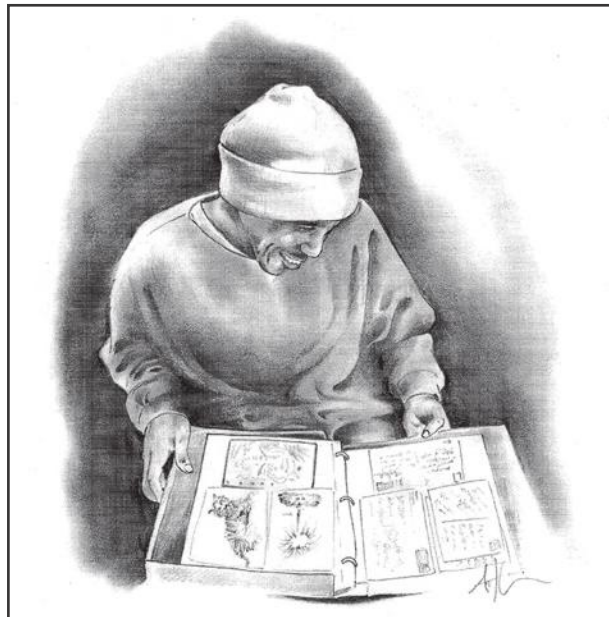
It's a culture strongly tied to rehabilitation, family and community. It's a culture that seeks to change how free society sees prisoners.

But now San Quentin is changing. It's turning from a general population institution to a "Non-designated Program Facility," and accepting any prisoner who wants to program.

The Director of the Division of Adult Institutions, Kathleen Allison, gave this explanation in a memorandum dated Oct. 27, 2017: "As a non-designated program, it is the expectation that all inmates will program together and comply with integrative housing expectations regardless of prior GP (General Population) or Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) programming or level designation."

This new designation has made significant changes in the prevailing environment, which had been quite peaceful and subdued for the past decade or so. The record will show that there is more tension now.

Many prisoners were upset because they didn't want to mix with guys who came from Sensitive Needs Yards. Some people transferred to



Drawing courtesy of Antwan "Banks" Williams

Portrait of Richard 'Bonaru' Richardson

## NEW BILL

Continued from Page 1

Currently, when an offender under age 18 is sentenced as an adult, he or she is kept in the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) until his or her 18th birthday and then transferred to adult prison.

Senate Bill 1391 would stop that practice in California.

"We need to recognize that 16 is too young for cognition compared to adults," said HRW Senior Advocate Elizabeth Calvin regarding the decision-making of juve-

niles. "We need to keep them in the juvenile system and not transfer them to adult prison after they turn 18."

When Calvin began investigating the kind of crimes that juveniles committed that sent them to adult prisons, she discovered that 72 percent of the juveniles had committed non-homicide crimes, such as robberies and assaults.

"Why are we treating 14- and 15-year-olds like this?" Calvin asked.

Calvin said that keeping a young offender in DJJ is in the best interest of the criminal justice system.

"In adult prison, there isn't the same kind of rehabilitative services for juveniles,"

Calvin said. "The state should give these children the care they need."

Calvin said that she's interested in hearing from men and women who are serving time in adult prisons who committed their crimes as juveniles.

"Even if you haven't undergone such an experience, you may have witnessed a youngster who struggled in adult prison after being transferred from DJJ. Your stories are important, too," Calvin said.

Human Rights Watch  
Elizabeth Calvin  
11500 W. Olympic Blvd.,  
Suite 608,  
Los Angeles, CA 90064.



Photo by Harold Meeks

Elizabeth M. Calvin talking to Ear Hustle's Antwan "Banks" Williams

other institutions, but for the most part, most of us asked, *so what?*

As the former Sensitive Needs Yard prisoners arrived here at San Quentin, I noticed the distance and separation immediately.

I sensed that same chilly reception toward the new arrivals that I had encountered when I came to San Quentin in 2007.

I never did like "us against them" feelings, so the first chance I got, I spoke to the new arrivals and welcomed them to San Quentin.

What I found out was that the only reason why some of them ended up on a Sensitive

Needs Yard was because they didn't want to be gang members anymore.

Richard S. came to San Quentin as an ex-gang member and was the only one to arrive in his situation.

"Coming to San Quentin was something nonexistent coming from Los Angeles," said Richard S. "But after experiencing the programs and doing an inventory of my life, I realized how immature and dysfunctional my life has been.

"Today I have a purpose and a voice and a love for myself that never existed before."

They listened as I gave

them a pitch about the value of engaging with the many rehabilitation programs available at San Quentin. Some of them who were interested in knowing more visited me in the newsroom to get more information.

Just because I didn't go to a Sensitive Needs Yard doesn't change the fact that their story is no different from mine.

If they want to join in strengthening San Quentin's culture of rehabilitation, they deserve our support and encouragement. The "Sensitive Needs Yard" stamp on a man's record should not be another strike against him.

## San Francisco DA stands apart from law enforcement to endorse bill

By Achilles Williams  
Journalism Guild Writer

Former Los Angeles Assistant Police Chief and current San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón announced his support for a new bill in the California Assembly that would change a necessary force standard for police shootings under state law—and was the only representative of California law enforcement to do so, according to Southern California radio station *KPCC*.

Under the proposed bill, introduced by Senator Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) and Assemblywoman Shirley Weber (D-San Diego), prosecutors could question officers involved in shootings about their decision-making process, whether they tried to de-escalate the situation, or if their actions contributed to the incident in any negative way. Current law limits these questions to only a few seconds before or after any use of force.

Gascón told *KPCC* the bill would "move policing in California into the 21st century" and called the present standard "absurd."

"I think that as the community feels that officers are less likely to use force, people are going to be more receptive to cooperation and submitting to police direction," he said.

Public support for such reform may have been sparked by the March 2018 police killing of Stephon Clark, an unarmed 22-year-old Black man, in Sacramento, the state capital.

"The rules for governing

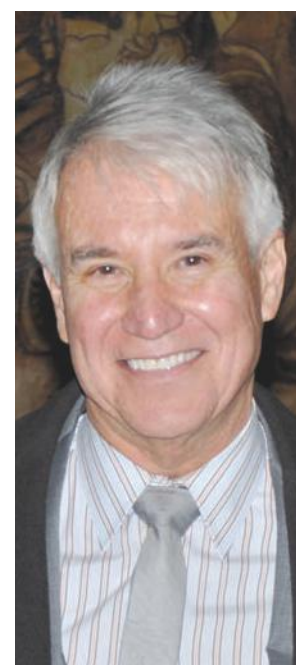


Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

S.F.D.A. George Gascón

when police can use force are not working. Too many people are being killed by police. Too many are unarmed," ACLU attorney Peter Bibring said.

The standard being proposed statewide is already in place in Los Angeles, after a five-member civilian panel that oversees the department decided a shooting in South Los Angeles was in part caused by the officer.

The panel concluded that the officer lacked reasonable suspicion to make the stop in the first place, and the city settled a federal civil rights lawsuit with the family of the victim, Ezell Ford, for \$1.8 million, *KPCC* reported.

Gascón advocates that putting the "necessary force"

standard in state law would force a domino effect, changing the relationship between civilians and officers in police departments statewide. He believes promoting de-escalation will make both parties safer.

However, Craig Lally, head of the L.A. Police Protective League, which represents the rank and file officers, disagrees.

A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling upheld a three-decade old ruling that a deadly threat does not have to be real to justify the officer's shooting, Stoltze reported. In that case, Arizona officers shot a woman who was wielding a kitchen knife on her front porch.

"Last time I checked, the Supreme Court was the law of the land," Lally said.

Still, Lally has not read the details of the proposal, *KPCC* reported.

"We look forward to talking to the bill's authors," Lally said.

According to USC political analyst Dan Schnur, voters were once heavily aligned with law enforcement interests; as crime declined in the 21st century, they started to view criminal justice reform more favorably. In this case, current events may be driving public support for the reform of force standards.

Particularly as unrest over Clark's shooting continues in the state capital, the discussion is driven by current events.

"What may have changed here is there is a particularly compelling story," added Schnur, referring to Clark's killing.

## VOTE

Continued from Page 1

In 2016, Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 2466, known as "The Voting Rights Clarification."

The bill granted "more than 50,000 people under mandatory and post-release community supervision" the right to vote, according to the ACLU.

Under the new law, anyone convicted of a felony, who is not currently in state or federal prison or on parole, is allowed to vote.

The only time you cannot vote while in county jail is if you are awaiting transfer to state or federal prison; in jail for a parole violation or serving a state prison sentence under contract with a county jail; or you are

currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

In order to vote from jail, a voter registration form must be requested, completed, filled out, and an application to vote-by-mail must be requested from jail staff or from a county clerk. Once submitted, your county election official will process and mail you a Voter Notification Card, and you will receive a vote-by-mail ballot in the mail prior to the next election.

You may register to vote if you are 18 or over and if you are a juvenile court commitment (not an adult court conviction), to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Counselors could answer any questions.

The ability to vote is restored once a sentence is completed.

Online voter registration is at <http://registertovote.ca.gov/> or print the voter registration form and send it in by mail. You can also register at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when you are signing up for a driver's license or ID card.

According to the DMV, "the deadline to register [to vote] is by 11:59:59 on the 15th day before the Election Day."

The next election in California will be held on Nov. 6.

If you are eligible and haven't already registered to vote please do! Encourage family members and friends to register and vote too. There are a number of criminal justice reform bills on the ballot that directly affect you and your family.

Ella Baker Center for Human Rights can be reached at 1970 Broadway, Suite 1125, Oakland, CA 94612.

## OptionB

OptionB.Org support group  
Overcoming the effects of incarceration

### Overview

We believe in the power of community to help people heal. We want to break the silence and isolation that often surrounds adversity. To do that, we're growing a community that shows people they are not in it alone.

### About OptionB.Org

OptionB.Org is dedicated to helping people build resilience in the face of adversity—and giving them the tools to help their family, friends, and community do the same.

At optionb.org, people can:

- Read and share personal stories.
- Join online groups for solidarity and support.

Find information from experts.

### Key details about Overcoming the effects of incarceration group

This group is one of several Facebook groups moderated by OptionB.Org. It is meant to be a space for people who have been incarcerated or have loved ones who are incarcerated to connect around their experiences.

Here are some key details about the group:

- The group currently has nearly 600 members.
- OptionB Facebook groups are closed; only members can see posts to the group. However, non-members can see who is in the group and request to join. For more details, members can read Facebook's group privacy settings.

### Group moderation

To ensure that the conversations in this group are productive and respectful, we ask that all members:

- Share openly and thoughtfully with each other.
- Ask specific questions, tell stories, and provide information that will enable others to support them best.
- Share stories within the group, or on optionb.org/stories if they're comfortable.
- Follow our set of Community Guidelines, which can be found at optionb.org/guidelines.

Note: Since we are not subject matter experts, we do not post frequently in the group. However, we are in the process of experimenting with sharing different types of content that might help members of our community build resilience.

### Impact

- More than 90% of group members attribute a positive outcome in their life to Option B.
- "No one can truly understand the impact of having an incarcerated loved one unless they are also in the same position. As a working mom, this group connected me with family members and loved ones of people serving prison sentences—those who can offer first-hand experience, advice, and support in a positive and encouraging environment. By making connections with so many people in a safe environment, I'm able to move forward through this unique journey. I'm so grateful for this group, and I encourage family members and loved ones of people serving prison sentences to join." - Option B community member.
- One member was nervous about her son's parole board hearing. He's only nineteen and has been incarcerated for the past three years. The other members of the community stepped in to give her supportive comments. Two weeks after her original post, she updated the group with a photo of her and her son—he got released and is back with his family.

To join the Overcoming the effects of incarceration group for support, your loved ones can visit [optionb.org/groups](http://optionb.org/groups).

## Prison reform could free 30,000 inmates

By Wayne Boatwright  
Staff Writer

A series of criminal justice reforms, if adopted, would allow California to return 30,000 inmates to their communities.

Each year, California spends a combined \$20 billion in state prisons and county jails, according to *Safe And Sound: Strategies To Save A Billion In Prison Costs And Build New Safety Solutions*, a report by Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ).

"That's a 500 percent increase in prison spending since 1981 ... California spends as much today on prisons as every state in the United States combined spent on prisons in 1981," reported CSJ.

CSJ makes three key recommendations to reduce mass incarceration:

- Give power back to the courts by ending mandatory minimum sentences.
- Parole more low-risk inmates. While the CDCR assesses 48 percent of California prisoners as low risk, many of these cannot benefit from existing reforms as their crime has been categorized as "violent."
- Let more inmates earn good-time credits for participating in rehabilitation programs.

"If state leaders implement the...reforms outlined in this report, the state could safely ... reduce the number of people in state prison by about 30,000," claims CSJ.

Implementing these recommendations, "could allow the state to close five prisons and save the state at least \$1.5 billion annually," according to CSJ.

CSJ recommends California use the savings to scale up victim trauma recovery, drug rehabilitation, mental health, job training and homeless support to break the cycle of crime. CSJ calls the strategy, Shared Safety Infrastructure.

"The goal has to be rehabilitation. Redemption has to be real," said Lenore Anderson, executive director of CSJ.

The report shows that even crime survivors support prison reform:

- By a 2 to 1 margin, for renewed focus on supervised probation and rehabilitation over sending people to jails or prisons.
- By a 7 to 1 margin, survivors want California to invest in health and drug treatment over jails and prisons.
- A majority think prisons make the problem worse by making better criminals instead of better citizens.

These numbers came from a first-of-its-kind survey of California crime victims conducted by CSJ.

"The long overdue task of replacing ineffective over-incarceration with smart justice in the nation's most populous state is finally underway," the report said, referring to voter-approved prison reform measures begun in 2012 that released thousands of inmates.

## PROGRAMS

Continued from Page 1

"These programs are breaking new ground by helping incarcerated people tell their own stories and make positive change in their own lives and in the world."

In a statement, CZI said PUP "has been the site of a unique and unprecedented educational enterprise, providing excellent higher education to people at San Quentin," and it acknowledged how the college program "supports increased access to higher education for incarcerated people across California."

"The Prison University Project works to transform the U.S. criminal justice system by empowering incarcerated individuals to become leaders and change agents," said Jody Lewen, executive director of PUP. The college program works "to break down harmful biases that dehumanize the image of incarcerated people in the public imagination."

"The grant came in at an unbelievable time," said Nigel Poor, co-host of Ear Hustle. "We didn't have a big plan when we started. That's only sustainable up to a point."

Inmate and Ear Hustle co-host Earlonne Woods said the high-profile grant will show that their work is important. "Ear Hustle has to rely on grants," he said. "I'm appreciative of CZI in assisting us in our struggles for funding."

In October 2015, Dr. Priscilla Chan Zuckerberg and husband, Mark Zuckerberg,



Jody Lewen at the 2018 PUP graduation

founder of Facebook, toured San Quentin to get a first-hand look at the programs inside the prison and to talk to inmates.

Aly Tamboura, who paroled from San Quentin in 2016, received his AA degree from PUP and learned computer coding in the Code.7370 program. He now works for CZI as its technology & program delivery manager and was instrumental in the grant funding going to PUP and Ear Hustle.

Poor, who is a tenured professor at California State University Sacramento, taught History of Photography at PUP in 2012 when she first met Tamboura, who was then an inmate-student. "He was a really good student," she said. "He was really serious."

After Tamboura paroled, he remained interested in the criminal justice system. While working for CZI, he proposed the idea of grant funding to organizations doing work to improve the

criminal justice system.

Poor said she saw Tamboura at a Human Rights Watch conference, and then at a PUP brainstorming conference.

Later, he escorted her into the CZI conference room in Palo Alto, California, to discuss a grant for Ear Hustle.

"It was wild," Poor said.

"It's so uplifting that someone who was incarcerated is now responsible for funding Ear Hustle. If I hadn't been teaching at PUP, I would've never made the connection."

"A lot of people get out of prison and say what they're going to do," Woods said. He said Tamboura didn't say he would do anything. "But he did. I'm just appreciative of a guy who looked back."

"CZI's generosity will allow us to grow in beautiful ways," Woods said. "We usually hear about the great criminal justice reform work that groups like CZI do and only dream that this sequestered population could directly benefit ... well, that dream has become a reality."

Poor said she believes CZI wants to give voice to people

who are voiceless. Through Ear Hustle, stories told by those living in prison are produced inside San Quentin and broadcast to the world with more than 12 million downloads.

In 2016, Ear Hustle won Radiotopia's Podquest when it was chosen from more than 1,500 contestants from around the world, and it has been in the number one spot on Apple Podcasts.

The Prison University Project delivers the opportunity to the incarcerated to benefit from education in the liberal arts and to use their learning, talents and life experiences to make important academic and collective contributions. It provides training and mentorship to emerging educational programs that provide higher education in California and nationally.

In recognition of its impact and for providing education opportunities to the incarcerated, PUP was awarded the 2015 National Humanities Medal by President Obama.

At its 2018 graduation, Lewen said, "There are people out there that care about the things we care about."

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative is a philanthropic organization that is working to build a future for everyone. It uses traditional grant making, advocacy, storytelling, impact investing and engineering to help drive change at scale. Its criminal justice reform program focuses on power building in communities traditionally excluded from policy making and agenda-setting in criminal justice.



Antwan "Banks" Williams, Earlonne Woods and Nigel Poor on the 3 tier in SQ's North Block

# First annual “victim awareness event” at CIW

By Paige Linville and Kinzie Noordman  
Contributing Writers

Four survivors, Rita, Sammie, Nora and Michelle, shared testimonies of the impact of crime on their lives at the California Institution for Women (CIW), April 7.

They joined 100 offenders and the Chief Deputy Warden for the inaugural “In Their Shoes: Victim Awareness Event.”

The day began with participants designing signs to honor their victims, which they wore throughout the day. The morning was spent walking laps while exchanging stories about crime and its far reaching consequences.

Before the event, participant Aimee Gana thought that there would be a divide be-

tween herself and the victim speakers. She spent the walk talking with Sammie.

“We opened our hearts to each other and I left feeling like the world was smaller. I recognized the commonality and interconnectedness of the experiences of victims and offenders alike. It was life changing,” commented Aimee.

The event was a collaboration of CIW’s three restorative justice based programs: Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG), Bridges to Life (BTL) and Restorative Justice Victim Impact Workshop (RJVI). Each group manned a booth during the event to provide participants with information about their programs.

All proceeds from the event, totaling over \$500, were do-

ated to “Healing Hearts, Restoring Hope (HHRH),” a Los Angeles based organization that provides services to crime victims, survivors, and others in the community affected by homicide. HHRH plays an important role at CIW by providing offenders with services designed to increase empathy for their victims through taking responsibility for their crimes and their healing.

The afternoon was devoted to creating a sacred space for healing. A victim panel consisting of detailed personal accounts of the tragedy inflicted by violent crime offered offenders an intimate glimpse into the lives of crime survivors. Nora spoke of the murder of her 17 year old son. When asked about her feelings toward her perpetrator, she stated that she wished she could



File Photo

Michelle, Nora, Sammie and Rita

tell her offender, “You’re my son now, and bear the responsibility of making me as proud as he would have.”

Intertwined with the still excruciating pain caused by their losses was a message of forgiveness. All of the victim speakers encouraged offenders to return to the community as healed and productive citizens. In her search for understanding, Michelle has dedicated her life to helping offenders heal by becoming a drug and alcohol counselor. Rita’s losses drove her to be-

come the victim’s ministry coordinator in her Boyle Heights community.

When asked about making an apology, Rita explained that “sorry isn’t good enough,” she wanted offenders to understand that they need to show a tangible transformation in their lives. Her goal in working with offenders is to make her community safer by ensuring that offenders she speaks to never make another victim.

“As I listened to the stories of mother’s whose children

had been murdered, I thought about my victim’s family. I finally grasped the enormous impact my actions had on many individuals,” shared participant Angelina. She said that hearing the raw emotions of the speakers helped her to cut through her own denial and face the humanity of her victim.

Many attendees left the event changed; they expressed how the unexpected compassion and forgiveness of the crime survivors inspired them to seek their own healing.



File Photo

Kinzie Noordman, Kelly Flynn and Bernadette Osika



File Photo

Linda Woo, Sammie, Aimee Gana and Paige Linville with dog

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*There is always a story in SQN that allows me to reflect and empathize with other inmates concerning their life of incarceration. The May 2018 issue provides a wonderful account of the hardships elderly inmates face concerning health and family when approaching BPH. This is a very real and heart-wrenching issue that affects those who have surpassed years of obstacles to garner the opportunity of physical freedom, when for the majority of them, there isn't much left when they're granted release. It's important to share the sentiment to the Spanish-speaking inmate community which struggles also with the search of support from their native countries, coupled with their deteriorating health and lack of family support.*

*The other significant point to this issue is how many of us fail to give proper attention to our elderly prisoners.*

*Here in CCI Facility 4A, there are men like those in the article. The elderly men here have struggled with their disruptive lifestyles and substance abuse late into their lives, but regardless of their age, the drive is there to rehabilitate and reintegrate themselves back into society. Here facilitators of self-help groups add workshops, confer and grant them the various platforms for them to be seen and heard. These men are treasure troves of knowledge and wisdom, not to be overlooked. Like many of us seeking suitability by BPH who intend to help the struggling youth upon their release, we shouldn't forget this community. These are our neighbors, teachers and fathers.*

*To the contributors of this publication, allow me to extend a special thanks from all the inmates here on CCI Facility 4A who read and appreciate the issues brought up by articles like this that resonate and concern us. Thanks to SQN these topics are discussed during self-help groups, building understanding and ways to aid those with these specific needs.*

*“Nunca es muy tarde para ver en si, lo bueno que hay para brindar.”*

—M. Ignacio

## Solar plant heads to CIW

By Amir Shabazz  
Journalism Guild Writer

A solar plant could be coming to the California Institution for Women prison in Corona. The solar facility would be built on 10 acres of land belonging to the prison, reported the *Chino Champion*.

The 1,349-kilowatt solar plant would produce emission-free renewable energy for the state’s power grid and use at the women’s prison, according to the May 5 article.

The state has been trying to create solar projects at California Department of Cor-

rections and Rehabilitation prisons for years. The facility meets Gov. Jerry Brown’s executive order to decrease grid-based energy purchases, said Jennifer Lida, public information officer for the Department of General Services. The project will be for the general use at the prison.

“We do not believe there are any objections to the project,” said Lida. “The projects do not affect the operations of the facility and are on CDCR land that would otherwise be vacant.”

The excess electricity at the site would interconnect with Southern California Edison power lines, said the

article.

Construction could start in August. It would take an estimated four months to complete the project. Delays might be caused by reviews of the design plans by the environmental agency and the state’s Fire Marshal, said the article.

The plant will include 64 rows of solar arrays providing 4,028 solar panels, according to Terracon Consultants, which prepared the geotechnical engineering report.

Chino city officials expressed concern that they had not been adequately informed of the project.

## Pregnant prisoners shackled

By Joe Garcia  
Journalism Guild Writer

Pregnant female prisoners – even those in the midst of labor – must suffer the indignity and discomfort of mandatorily being shackled and handcuffed by San Diego County Sheriffs, according to a recent *Voice of San Diego* news article.

A 2013 legislative bill implemented specific law to prohibit such restraints. The SD Sheriff’s Department, however, chooses to interpret the phrase, “...unless deemed necessary for the safety and security of the inmate, the staff, or the public,” as effectively meaning at all times, according to a recent *Voice of San Diego* article.

“To start out as routine – a standard that everybody’s going to be shackled until we decide we don’t need to – is wrong,” said Carol Strickman, an attorney working with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. “I’m really disappointed to hear this.”

“We know a lot of times the counties’ policies are in compliance, but we can’t really speak to what their practice is,” added Strickman.

The Sheriff’s Department rejected a recommendation

to change the wording in its “Pregnant Patient’s Rights” from “You will be chained and handcuffed during labor and delivery,” to “A pregnant inmate in labor, during delivery, or in recovery after delivery shall not be restrained by the wrists, ankles, or both, unless...”

“The statement as it currently reads is an accurate statement,” wrote Lt. David Gilmore in his rejection letter dated March 26.

“All inmates start off minimally restrained (one wrist to the bed or something similar) while they are in the hospital,” said Lt. Karen Stubkjaer, a spokesperson for the Sheriff’s Department.

Stubkjaer further stated that restraints may be removed upon request of the attending physician, or when law enforcement personnel can determine that the pregnant inmate poses no threat whatsoever, but neither scenario is likely to ever happen.

According to Stubkjaer, 54 women incarcerated at the county jail have successfully given birth in San Diego County Jail over the last three years. She said her department doesn’t keep track of how restraints were used

in those cases, however, because that’s a medical record confidentiality issue.

“Restraints should be used only in cases in which there is a compelling threat to safety or security,” said Senator Toni Atkins, president pro tem of the California state senate and author of the 2013 bill.

Atkins said she finds San Diego’s automatic use of restraints troubling, and she intends to discuss these shackling procedures with Sheriff Bill Gore.

Jail staff are required by law to inform pregnant inmates of their right not to be shackled unless they pose a safety risk. In San Diego, the women are instead being told they will be required to wear restraints.

“It needs to be communicated – the actual law,” said Strickman. “Not their illegal procedure.”

Strickman said her organization had previously believed San Diego’s policies had been in compliance with state law, but now she is fully aware of their extreme interpretation of the law’s phrasing.

Restraints are supposed to be the exception, not the norm, she said.

# Resilience: A key factor in growth KID CAT graduates 43 in its fourth cycle

## Kid CAT Speaks!

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

Successful adults who overcame difficult childhoods have one thing in common – resilience, according to social scientists.

“The dictionary defines resilience as elasticity, which is the ability to recover quickly, and easily...these images are fine for describing recovery from short-term problems, but they don’t capture how resiliency truly works and feels,” said Dr. Meg Jay, author of *Supernormal: The Untold Story of Adversity and Resilience*.

“The most common childhood adversities aren’t one-time events but chronic sources of stress: bullying, neglect, physical or sexual abuse, the death of a parent or sibling, addiction or mental illness in the home, domestic violence.”

**“Whatever does not kill us may indeed make us stronger”**

A resilient person does not just rebound from a traumatic experience. What they do is more complex. Resilience is an on-going battle, a way of approaching life, according to Dr. Jay.

Children are at high risk for future problems when they experience four or more adversities at birth, such as poverty, family discord, alcoholism or mental illness in the home, according to a 40-year *Kaui Longitudinal Study of 698 individuals*.

“Two-thirds of these high-risk children went on to have difficulties of their own, such as delinquency,

unplanned pregnancies and underemployment.” *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The other one-third performed average to above-average at school and work, in comparison to their peers who posed low-risk from affluent stable homes. In adulthood, they found supportive partners and built loving families, according to the report.

How did they do it?

According to Dr. Jay, “They were active problem-solvers who, over a period of decades, fought for better lives for themselves...they used whatever strengths they had to their advantage – a particular talent, an engaging personality, a ready intelligence.

“They sought out friends, teachers, neighbors or relatives who cared. They made plans to better themselves and set ambitious but realistic goals for the future.”

Some notable celebrities cited who overcame childhood adversities: relatives sexually abused Oprah Winfrey, Howard Schultz of Starbucks grew up in a housing project, and John D. Rockefeller’s father was a con man and was often absent.

Those who have experienced some adversity tend to have higher functioning and more satisfaction in their lives compared with those who had no experience of adversity, according to a 2010 University of Buffalo study, by psychologist Mark Seery.

Seery also concluded that, “in partial agreement with Nietzsche, that ‘in moderation, whatever does not kill us may indeed make us stronger.’”

“When life inevitably becomes difficult...Resist the defeat in your own mind... Reach out to family, friends or professionals who care,” said Dr. Jay.

It is a myth that resilient people don’t need help. Seeking support is what resilient people do.

By Wayne Boatwright  
Staff Writer

With a class of 43, the largest graduating class yet, a group of inmate facilitators and advisors were in a boisterous mood as they prepared the certificates for the fourth graduating cycle of Kid CAT’s (Creating Awareness Together) First Step curriculum on a Sunday evening this spring.

The ARC building was set up for a celebration with nametags on chairs for all the graduates as they waited outside the building. As do all groups, the attendees signed in as they filtered into the ARC building.

The graduates completed a 28-week three-phase childhood development curriculum of eight modules. The philosophy of first offering a safe place for men to process the consequences of their up-bringing was on full display at the March 24.

The First Step curriculum explores the root causes of criminal thinking and violent behavior as well as ways to address those factors through written assignments, self-exploration, lectures and group discussions.

An inmate-created group, Kid CAT has a full range of inmate facilitators across the racial and age spectrums of California prisoners. They all have in common not so much their crimes as the age they committed them. Many minors were sentenced as adults.

There are two regular meetings: one for Kid CAT lifers on Sunday afternoons, and the general Kid CAT group that meets on Sunday evenings in the ARC room.

At the graduation, co-lead facilitators Natalie Bell and Shadeed “Sha” Wallace-Stepter introduced the graduates and passed out the certificates. Wallace-Stepter warned the group that “after graduation, we are going to go into games and you can win prizes. Sit close to people in your circle...”

Fateen Jackson, an inmate facilitator, gave an emotionally charged rap performance about consequences, “not just from my crime but also for my redemption. You need regret to begin ‘my

mission for redemption,’ to be forgiven. To an end, this is our mission for redemption.”

Next they took a break for a game that took up most of the evening. It was an opportunity for the graduates, inmate facilitators and outside advisors to act out emotions as individuals and as teams.

The process: Call up the outside facilitators and inmates to present an emotion.

They performed a “perp-walk”... a way to have the outside facilitators interact with the men.

Compete as teams—all a good-natured expression of showing and recognizing emotions.

Travis Westly ran the game, ribbed all the participants, and followed up with a

second game to act out one of the eight modules:

- Masculinity
- Self-Identities
- Identifying Emotions
- Communication
- Environmental Influences
- Consequences
- Empathy/Compassion
- Forgiveness

Eddie Herena, one of the Fourth Cycle graduates, said, “It took about eight months to finish the class, and it was time well-spent. To me, if you take one self-help group you’ve taken them all, but Kid CAT was different. Each of the eight modules led to the same place, a place where I could learn to forgive myself.”

Charlie Spence, chairman of Kid CAT, made an extra effort to congratulate every-

one on making it through a complete cycle given the numerous lockdowns that had extended the group’s sessions.

“Our hope is that this is the first step of the work and my hope is that Kid CAT has given you an insight to yourself and families. Special thanks to Natalie, who does an amazing job of organizing. Thank you for inviting outside folks that can consider joining Kid CAT,” Spence said.

When asked about the plans for Kid CAT, Spence said, “We seek to be more inclusive. We have voted to reserve 10 percent of our membership capacity for those who committed their crimes between the ages of 20 to 25.”



Charlie Spence, Chairman of Kid-Cat, giving a speech at a banquet

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

## Kid CAT curriculum now available

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

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

curriculum and facilitators manual.

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

- Past (childhood to pre-conviction)
- Present (current incarceration)
- Future (post-release).

The 26-week curriculum is broken into eight modules:

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

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

## Dear Kid CAT,

*During the past couple of months I have spoken to several facility sponsors concerning the Kid CAT Childhood development program and support group. As of today there are a couple of sponsors willing to support me toward proposing a Kid CAT branch here in California Institution in Tehachapi. This has taken me time because of the programs pending approval by our Community Resource Manager (CRM).*

*Once I look over the curriculum and facilitator’s manual, I will prepare the proposal directed to our CRM.*

*On behalf of the community here in Tehachapi we thank you for the curriculum and know that the program will prosper for the better of the inmate population here.*

Sincerely,

I. Medina, California Correctional Institution

Dear Medina,

*Thank you for your interest and hard work in trying to create a Kid CAT branch at Tehachapi. We are grateful for the opportunity to be of service to support your endeavor to find solutions for rehabilitation on behalf of the community there. We look forward to hearing about your progress and how the group is coming along. Good luck!*

## The Beat Within

A Publication of Writing and Art from the Inside

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 July help 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!

Despite the challenges, the pains, the disappointments, heart-breaks and concerns you may have, what is something you still believe in? What has believing in this person or thing done for you?

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.

# Former inmate develops “prison instagram”

By Joe Garcia  
Journalism Guild Writer

Marcus Bullock discovered a wealth of entrepreneurial insights during his time behind bars. His prison experiences inspired him to create Flikshop—an innovative app that helps incarcerated people remain close to their loved ones.

Flikshop takes any image sent from a cellphone and turns it into a postcard that the inmate will receive through regular mail.

“We are called the Instagram of prison,” Bullock recently told *San Quentin News*. “We keep families connected.”

“We want to ensure a person in every cell receives mail every day,” he said. “When I was in prison, I understood that getting mail was like winning the lottery.”

With the help of prison reform advocate John Legend and his partnership with Un-



Marcus Bullock in prison

locked Futures, Flikshop now reaches inmates throughout all 50 states, with 40 percent of its revenue coming from California.

“John Legend is an avid Flikshop user and investor,” Bullock explained. “Sitting down with him, you have the opportunity to hear his experience with the criminal justice system.”

“He (Legend) is very adamant about people coming out of these cells having the same opportunities as those who come out of college.”

“It’s been proven that inmates that are in constant contact with their families and friends are far more likely to successfully re-enter their communities upon release,” Flikshop states on its website. “These inmates feel the support during their incarceration, which also promotes a greater sense of accountability to loved ones.”

Flikshop exceeded its initial goal of providing quick and easy social interaction

between family members and inmates. According to *Forbes* magazine, the app’s convenient efficiency gives nonprofit organizations—ones geared toward transitional reentry and rehabilitation services—a direct route to offer inmates information and assistance.

The Campaign for Youth Justice (CYJ), an organization Bullock got involved with upon his release from prison, became one of Flikshop’s first subscribers when it launched in 2012. CYJ continues to use the service to reach out to incarcerated youth offenders across the nation.

“Flikshop provides incarcerated individuals an important communication pathway with loved ones at home,” said Rob Brown, chairperson of the JUST Capital Research Advisory Council. “This critical connection is a straightforward reminder that a full life awaits outside prison, and a motivation to seek self-improvement inside prison.”

“Once released, the individual is more likely to be in a frame of mind to stay on a responsible course from the moment of release from prison.”

Bullock encourages the hiring of returning citizens to help diminish recidivism. Flikshop employs a current staff of 18 people, most of whom are formerly incarcerated individuals.

“As I think about others in those cells, if each one of them got a Flikshop every day—what would they do with that?” Bullock said. “It would add a tremendous amount of value to their time there and preparing them for

release.”

Bullock is quite impassioned about not being fearful of failure.

He explained that he started his first company while in prison. “It prepared me to think like an entrepreneur; it forced me to read books

about it. When it was time, I knew how to run a business.

“Dream big,” he advised, “and take the dreams that you have in those cells. Start now. Start today.”

“One of the mantras I have learned is to fail fast, as quickly as you can. Each one

of your failures will help you with success.

“I’ll run to the failure, to the cliff and jump over it” he proclaimed. “If you are brave enough to do that then you are an entrepreneur, and you will build your parachute on the way down.”

## Prison labor in question

By Mike Little  
Journalism Guild Writer

In Washington, D.C., a group of 18 Republican congressmen are trying to convince the Trump administration to shield private prisons from lawsuits alleging immigrant detainees are forced to work for a wage of \$1 a day, *The Washington Post* reported.

At least five lawsuits have been filed against private prisons, including The GEO Group and CoreCivic, over issues including detainee compensation.

The *Daily Beast* was first to report that a letter from the congressmen to top federal officials argued that the detainees are not technically employees of the private prisons and therefore should not be able to file lawsuits pursuing payment for their labor.

“Alien detainees should not be able to use immigration detention as a means of obtaining stable employment that will encourage them to pursue frivolous claims to remain in the country and in detention for as long as possible,” said the letter addressed to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Labor Secretary Alexander

Acosta, and acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Thomas Homan.

The letter also included the group’s expectation that the federal government would inevitably join the debate and urged the addressed officials to “take the position that these lawsuits lack legal merit and should be dismissed.”

The lawsuits alleged that the private prison companies use voluntary work programs as a loophole to violate multiple labor laws such as state minimum wage laws and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Washington state sued GEO last year for violating its minimum wage standard of \$11 an hour. Because GEO is a private company detaining people on civil charges, the state argued that the company should follow their wage requirements.

“This is detention, not a competitive work environment,” GEO attorney Joan Mell told a federal judge last November.

Inmates in Colorado and California also have lawsuits pending against The GEO Group. The suits describe immigrant detainees

being forced to work janitorial and clerical jobs to pay for daily necessities like food and water for only a dollar per day.

Those who refused were punished by “disciplinary segregation or solitary confinement” or referred for criminal prosecution, one of the lawsuits alleged. The company has denied allegations that detainees are forced to work against their will.

GEO is asking that the case be dismissed, asserting that the federal rate for work performed by detainees overrides the Washington state minimum wage law.

The congressmen’s letter that was filed with the U.S. District Court asserted that paying the detainees more than \$1 a day as required by federal law would “provide an unnecessary windfall to the detainees, and drain the federal government of limited taxpayer resources.”

They also asserted that immigrant advocates, including sanctuary cities, have filed “nuisance lawsuits” to raise costs of immigration detention and ultimately diminish the overall level of immigration enforcement, reported *The Washington Post*.



File Photo

Marcus Bullock after prison

## Young offenders learn expression through poetry

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild  
Chairman

For nearly 15 years New Earth, a nonprofit organization, has served incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth throughout Southern California.

New Earth provides youth offenders in juvenile halls, group homes and probation camps with a support system and mentorship program. The organization also has a reentry center that caters to the needs of youths ages 13-25 upon their release.

“Our first program was just really a poetry program,” Harry Grammer, founder of New Earth, told the *San Quentin News*. “We wanted to give opportunities to young people that were incarcerated, a way to express themselves in places where there is no expression.”

This program became the “Fluent Love of Words” (FLOW) where creative writing, spoken word and poetry workshops helped the youth express their lives through writing.

Within the FLOW program the young people record their poetry to the musical “beats” they create. The students then learn how to edit and engineer their own CDs. When the class is completed, the students hold a showcase and perform in front of their peers and facility staff.

These workshops are held in different detention centers



Harry Grammer with members of the program

throughout the Los Angeles and Orange County areas. The program is also in Camp Gonzales, Camp Miller and Pacific Lodge Boys Home.

Grammer was once a troubled youth himself – including an arrest at 16 and five years of juvenile probation – an experience that inspired him to become a youth advocate.

“I was bumping my head around until I got into my late 20s,” said Grammer. “I became a teenaged father and started turning my life around. I even spent a short time homeless.”

Being homeless is how Grammer came up with the name New Earth for his organization. He said he was living in a tent on the beach and sleeping on the earth.

“I wanted a New Earth for myself, I wanted a new life for myself,” said Grammer,

“so the name New Earth. I attached it to the organization and now it’s turning into something bigger.”

Grammer moved New Earth beyond the prison walls and built a support system for youths returning home.

“There’s a high recidivism rate in Los Angeles,” said Grammer. “I had gone to my ninth funeral of students that were in my classes. You start to realize great programs in jails just aren’t enough to make a real big impact as needed.”

Upon release, the young people can go to the New Earth Arts & Leadership Center located in Culver City. The youth receive a case manager and a variety of services such as career and job training, a high school education, music production and a gardening program.

The center provides young people counseling and trauma support, transportation to the center, financial literacy and parenting classes. They also can receive clothing, baby supplies and two daily meals.

Grammer and his staff also go to the youth homes and counsel them with their families.

“We give them a full wrap-around because they need someone in their life that they have built a relationship with and really cares,” said Grammer. “In some instances parents weren’t present in their lives. Over a period of time, we saw that we could do more for these young people.”

With this kind of dedication and commitment, Grammer was selected by the Obama Foundation to join its inaugural 2018 Fel-

lows class. Grammer is one of 20 “Obama Fellows” chosen from more than 20,000 applicants from 191 countries. The Obama Foundation will provide the Fellows with hands-on training and a network that will help take their work to the next level, according to a news release.

“It’s an incredible honor,” said Grammer. “At the same time I see the scope of the seriousness of this position, being a voice for the folks here in our communities. It’s a great responsibility.”

One of these next level projects New Earth is taking on is converting a former juvenile detention facility in Malibu into a vocational trade center and a partial reentry program.

“Nowhere in history have we heard of a prison being shut down and then turned into something that’s go-

ing to be good for the community, so this will be a big deal for us,” said Grammer. “It will be a residential program. It will not be a diversion program. People won’t be sentenced there. There will be an application process like any other college.”

It will be a 10-month program. The requirements are that they be system-involved in some way such as: probation, homeless, former foster care. At the end of the certification process, the students will be placed in jobs.

The Obama Foundation is interested in supporting and putting resources into this project, which will happen over the next three years, said Grammer.

Grammer understands the challenges that he faces—from dealing with bureaucracy, navigating funding and educating the public about the juvenile justice system. But he also has a message for incarcerated adults:

“First and foremost, keep your head up, get through it,” said Grammer. “We need you back in the community. Our communities aren’t going to turn around unless our elders come together and say ‘hey, you know what, let’s turn this gang thing around, let’s turn this crime thing around. Give our young people the right guidance and move in the right direction.’”

**Lee Mengistu, University of California at Berkeley Student, contributed to this story**



# Fathers and families: A traditional celebration

**Jesse Vasquez**  
Managing Editor

Father's Day came early for dads at San Quentin State Prison.

On June 1, incarcerated fathers started filing into the main visiting room for the annual Get on the Bus (GOTB) event, which brings families together for Mother's and Father's Day.

GOTB works with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) months in advance to coordinate the one-day event.

"This is the only visit I get every year," said Ruben Becerrada, who has been on Death Row since 2009 "It feels great to be able to spend time with my family. It's a blessing."

Families came from San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Alameda counties.

The families eat breakfast at a local church before arriving at the prison for processing.

"The anticipation is overwhelming," said Eric Post, who was waiting to see his 34-year-old daughter Myesha, whom he has not seen for four years.

Some of the children visiting are now young adults who grew up without their father's presence.

Shanika, Armando, and Dominic have been visiting their father for 20 years.

"This is the one for sure visit that we can count on every year," Shanika said. "We try to visit him whenever we can, but it's hard coordinating around the kids' events."

Shanika brought her two sons, 8-year-old Jeremiah and 5-year-old Jonathan, to visit their grandfather.

"My family made sure that my dad was a part of our lives," Shanika said. "We like coming to see my



Ethel Wallace, Darrell Williams and Denshay Wallace



Michael Cooper with his grandson



Ruben Becerrada with family



Melvin Turner with family



Gary McDonald with family



Ruben Giron with family



Jaylen, Katlyn, Pecolia Garcia and Charles Ross



Niece Jessica, Vince Smith and daughter Ania



Keya, Travis and Demauri Banks



La'trice and Colvin Lovell

dad." Jeremiah tried to show his grandpa how to dance the modern way but old joints don't sway like young hips.

GOTB volunteers mingled with the families while serving snacks and painting children's faces.

"I got up at 2 a.m. to catch the bus for today," said Kitty, a volunteer from Sacramento. "I love to see the kids interact with their fathers. When my dad was in prison, I was one of those kids. It was hard to visit."

According to Parents Behind Bars: What Happens to Their Children, it is estimated that more than 5 million U.S. children have an incarcerated parent.

A report by the National Research Council in 2014 (The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences) found that the number of children with a father in prison had grown from 350,000 to 2.1 million from 1980 to 2000. The number increased another 77 percent between 1991 and 2007.

"My first year as a volunteer I saw a girl meet her father for the first time," said Courtney, a volunteer from Sonoma. "It was an emotional day for me."

Courtney was introduced to GOTB through her sorority adviser, who happens to be a niece of one of the program organizers.

Courtney enjoys face painting with the kids.

"I am constantly drawn to volunteer with this program," Courtney said.

Death row inmate Mel Turner's visiting cage was a family reunion of fun and reflection.

"It's a blessing to be able to see my family," Turner said. "Without the program, I wouldn't be able to see them."

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

# 8th Day of Peace celebration



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Sidewalk art competition taking place on the Lower Yard



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Eric "Maserati E" Abercrombie rapping at SQ's Day of Peace



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Music band performing on Day of Peace



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Gathering crowd enjoying music at the Day of Peace



Photo by Greg Eskridge

Larry White and volunteers at SQ's Day of Peace



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Hector Heredia and Gregory "White Eagle" Coates

### By Juan Haines and Lloyd Payne

After nine days of quarantine, San Quentin celebrated its eighth Day of Peace on May 19. Live bands on a makeshift stage played classic rock, reggae and rhythm & blues to entertain hundreds of inmates as they mingled with dozens of community members and prison staffers. Several artists drew their interpretations of peace in a sidewalk art contest.

"This day is beautiful. It's amazing. The band is good. The music is good. Smiling, everyone can get together and live in peace," said Pat Mesiti-Miller, an outside sound-designer for the podcast *Ear Hustle*. "It's amazing that this can happen in a prison — having positive energy in a

place like this is important."

After a race riot on San Quentin's Lower Yard in 2006, a group of men, many serving life sentences, came together with the goal of stemming violence inside the prison. The administration supported the anti-violence message and approved the Day of Peace committee.

"It's a powerful gathering with a group of people that have a deep understanding of peacemaking processes rather than just a punitive system and responding to harm," said Danica Rodarmel, who works with San Quentin's Restorative Justice.

Tables were set up on the prison's Lower Yard promoting the various self-help groups available for the incarcerated men.

Rev. Bill Englehart sat at a table for The Work. He passed out leaflets describing what The Work has to offer: *Participants have the opportunity to learn specific skills such as reflective listening, cooperation, conflict resolution, accountability, tolerance, forgiveness and facilitation skills.*

Englehart co-facilitates the group with Lisa Starbird.

"It's really authentic sharing in a confidential setting where the men could share their challenges and victories. The environment is multi-ethnic, spiritual and racial," said Englehart. "The men in this group are dedicated to understanding themselves, being authentic in a way that is reflective of what you would find in a mon-

astery."

Oakland native Harry Black, 20, arrived at San Quentin two months ago. He's scheduled for release this October.

Black, surveying the multiple self-help stations, said that it was the first time he'd seen an event like Day of Peace.

"This shows a better side of the pen," Black said. "It shows when I get out, I can further my education or get a job."

Black said the atmosphere made him feel like a human being.

While standing in the crowd, Deyanco Blavin, a 25-year-old personal trainer, said he has mixed emotions.

It was Blavin's first time stepping inside a prison.

He compared the yard to a plantation and said, "I

feel anger and sadness. I see myself. I want to help. I would offer love and support. I would make this more of a community."

Dmari Pierceson, previously incarcerated at Duel Vocational Institution (DVI), said Day of Peace wouldn't happen there because "at DVI people don't care," he added, "If they had more activities and programs, it may be possible."

Pierceson looked around the yard and commented on people from different ethnic groups and areas of California "getting along."

Jeremiah Lee Sr. said he thought a Day of Peace could have taken place in San Joaquin County Jail, but wondered, "Who's willing to take that first step?"

He added, "A smart man learns from his mistakes,

but a wise man learns from the mistakes of others."

Ronnie Young, 49, arrived at San Quentin last March.

"When I first got, here, I was amazed by all the free staff and programs," Young said.

Young walked the yard, handing out roses. For the past 18 years, he's made roses out of soap bars. He tints and shades them with colored pencils.

"I got into Alliance for Change, Men Creating Peace and Narcotics Anonymous. With all the programs offered by CDCR, there's an avenue for change," Young said. "I've never seen anything like this ever, in my 23 years of being locked up."

Walkenhorst's Natalie Tovar showed up for a fifth time at the Day of Peace.

# on held on SQ's Lower Yard



Photo by Greg Eskridge

Volunteers and inmates touring through the different programs available at SQ



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Chaplain Mardi Ralph Jackson speaking to the crowd



Photo by Greg Eskridge

People waiting in line to receive their Walkenhorst's bag of goodies



Photo by Greg Eskridge

Volunteers exchanging views on the self-help programs offered at SQ



Photo by Greg Eskridge

Philippe Kelly explaining to volunteers about other self-help programs



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Items donated by Walkenhorst 's for the Day of Peace

"I feel like I have a connection with the people from sponsoring and encouraging the programs behind the walls," Tovar said.

Alex Ross, 52, has been in prison 24 years. He said California Men's Colony doesn't have programs like SQ. At SQ he's completed Criminal Gangs Anonymous, Restorative Justice, Anger management, Project LA and is enrolled in the Prison University Project.

"These groups help me to realize how distorted my thinking was growing up — that violence was the norm and how misguided I was," Ross said.

**Art Photos:**

There was a sidewalk chalk art contest judged by Arts in Corrections instructor Patrick Mahoney.

**First Place: #8 by Erik Rives**

*"You can tell how peaceful a person is by their eyes," Rives said. "It's the window to the soul—eyes inspire us deeply, especially when you look into a loved one's eyes."*

**Second: #7 by Al S. Bradshaw**

**Third: #11 by Jimmy Vue**

**Honorable mention #40 by Robert Russell**

**Duly noted #3 by Ross Tiner**

Tiner, 33, hails from Yuba City. He's been at San Quentin one week.

*"It's a peaceful drawing that came straight out of my heart," Tiner said.*

*"We don't have to hate.*

*The simplest gestures on Earth can be done to give hope to people who are lost."*

## Messages of Peace from the Day of Peace Committee

*In order to achieve peace...I will be a peacemaker — Stephen Pascascio, Chairman*

*The joy of life is practicing peace — Darnell Washington, Vice-Chairman*

*Peace is not a destination, but a practice we must live daily — Treasurer, Daniel Plunkett*

*Seamos la paz. Vivamosla! — Alexei Ruiz, Executive Secretary*

*Peace is human kindness — Eddie Hollingsworth III, Sgt. of Arms*

*Peace means forgiveness no matter what the cost — Brian Asey*

*Peace, reconciliation, transformation and healing for our communities — Jun Hamomato*

*Peace is not merely the absence of conflict, it also requires mutual respect and compassion — James King*

*Plant the seed of Peace, give it a chance to grow, and spread peace everywhere you go — Valeray Richardson*

*I choose peace, one moment at a time, and when I forget, I remember that I can choose again — Lisa Starbird*

*The only way to end war is through peace — Erin West*

*Awaken your heart to Peace — Tommy Wickerd*

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Photo courtesy of Lt. S. Robinson



Photo courtesy of Libby Rainey

Lt. S. Robinson sharing his SQ News in front of Disneyland, California

Amy Goodman, *Democracy Now*, reading the *San Quentin News*



Photo courtesy of Erin West

Erin West and members of the Global Sojourns Giving Circle in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The Giving Circle benefited from several food drives at San Quentin hosted by CGA

# Snippets

Lincoln was the first president to ever wear his beard.

It is a fact that Ulysses Grant paired up with a financial firm in 1880's that went bankrupt.

Before JFK turned 22 years old, his father gave him \$1 million to start his life.

Early 1755-1793, King Louis XVI's wife, Marie Antoinette dressed and bathed in front of 40 people.

Ronald Reagan called the USSR "the evil empire."

The beautiful Cleopatra wasn't so pretty. Historians claimed that she was short and portly with a long hooked nose and a thick neck.

Young Stalin, Stalin's son died because of an order his father issued in July of 1941.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

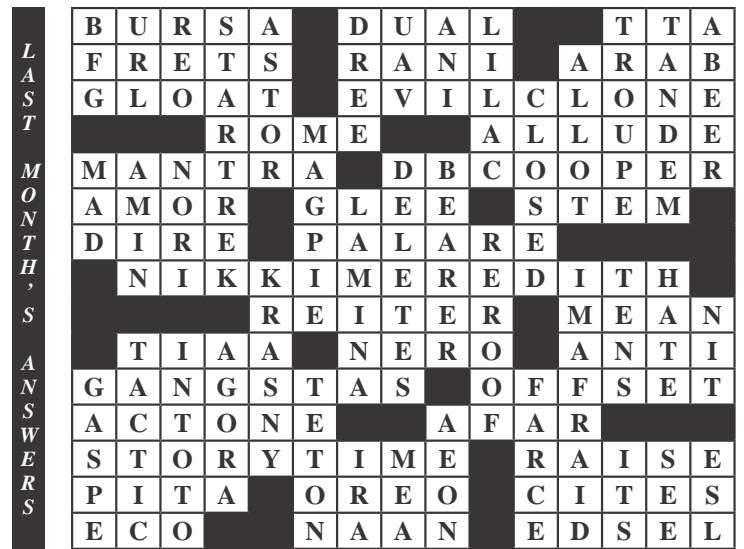
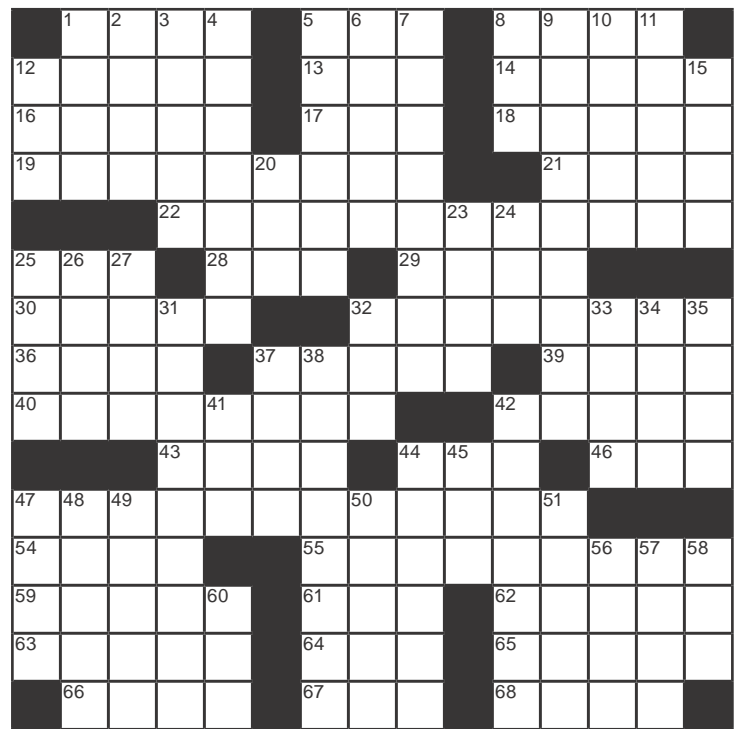
By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Across

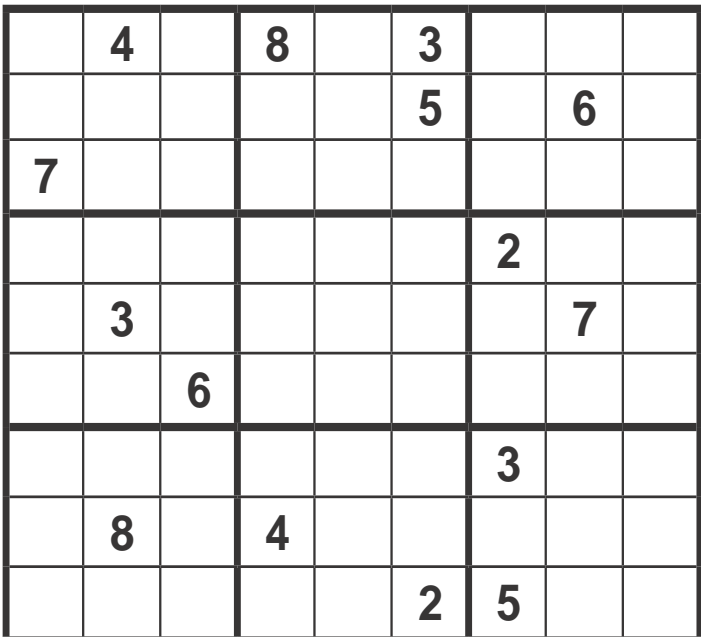
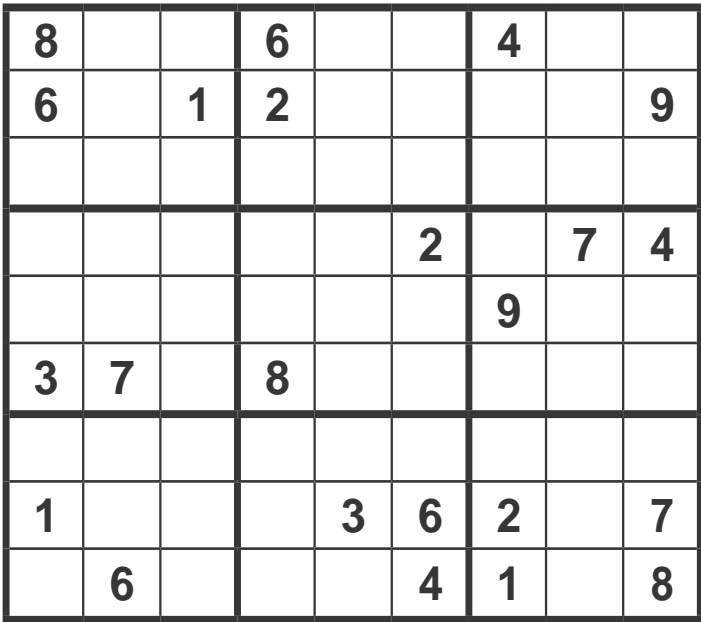
- Georgina of The Crossing
- Jim's better half
- People of Southeastern Nigeria
- Mother-of-pearl
- Before
- Provides for
- Distribute
- Small block of wood
- Brilliant display
- Highest elevation on the island of Tasmania
- Industrial city in NW India on the Chambal River
- "Let's bounce"
- Australian sheepskin boot
- Anger
- Monetary unit of Qatar
- Damages
- Easily carried
- Epps of In Too Deep
- Short time
- Spinach (Ind.)
- Famous historical Broadway play
- Endangered African animal
- Precedes mice, park, or hair
- \_\_\_\_-haw
- Tuner or King Cole
- "Pay me what you owed me"
- Make
- B.O.B. feat. Hayley Williams song
- Slight feeling
- Worst day of the week (Abbr.)
- Durance of Saving Hope
- Nom de plume
- Kimono accessory
- :
- Covered with small bearings of indefinite number arranged all over the field
- Precedes biscuit, breeze, or dog
- Minor

Down

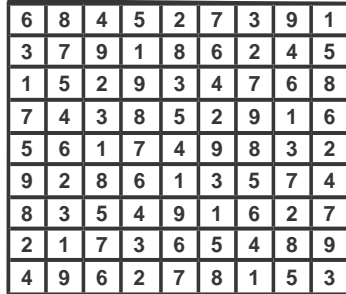
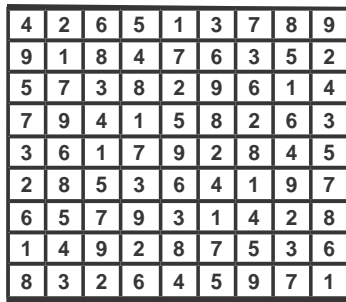
- Xbox game
- Grievance org.
- Jeremy of Justice League
- "Check it out"
- Formula 1 racing team
- Emerged
- Optimus Prime's foe
- Clinch
- /
- Wooden ship's lowest deck
- Defense alliance established to contain communism (Abbr.)
- Southeast Asian country (Abbr.)
- Immediately
- Rafter's necessity
- Grammy-winning trumpeter Alois Maxwell
- Precedes crow or dirt
- "Alarm!"
- Portuguese explorer Vasco de
- Metric unit of measure
- South Indian double-headed drum
- Wrestling move
- Batman villain
- Actress Turner
- Celebrity achievement (Abbr.)
- Regrowing cell
- "Silent All These Years" artist
- Monetary unit of Albania
- Mirror
- Protrusion in the body
- Prison psychiatric classification
- Type of testing
- Complains vehemently
- Actor Hudson
- Daughter of Tantalus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Islands, between Iceland and the Shetland Islands
- Pale greenish blue
- School subj.
- Gabriel or Francisco
- Guy (Sp)



# Sudoku Corner



## Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

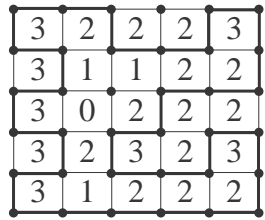


Answers from last issue's Brain Teasers

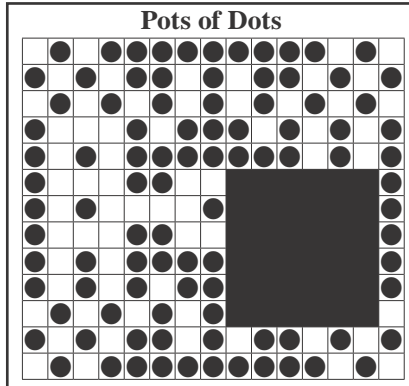
### Synonym Trios

- conceal, hide, cloak
- endure, abide, last
- louse, heel, cad
- value, statue, worth
- invent, create, devise

### Loop Link



### Pots of Dots



## This month's Brain Teasers:

### Lap It Up

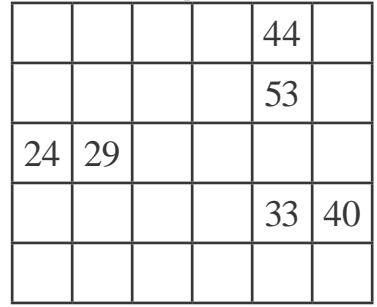
Each clue below leads to a two-word phrase in which the first word begins with LA and the second word begins with P,

as in *LATEX PAINT* or *LACROSSE PLAYER*.

- Feature of books for those with falling eyesight
- Where the biggest loser finishes
- Handheld beam used to point at airplanes
- 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics site
- Spacecraft's departure platform
- Google co-founder with Sergey Brin
- Football transfer that doesn't advance the ball
- Mary Tyler Moore's role on *The Dick Van Dyke Show*

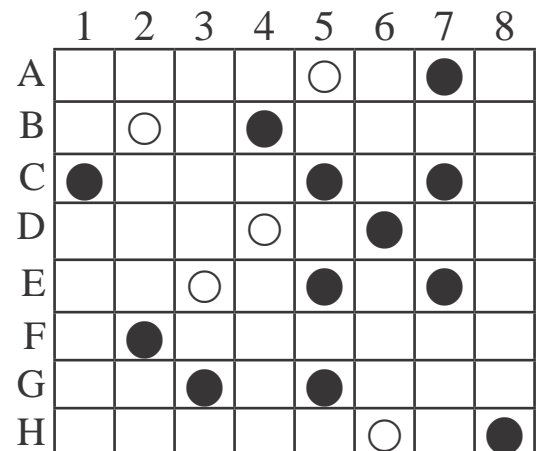
### Pathfinder

A path of 30 consecutive numbers, connected horizontally or vertically, and never diagonally, will complete the grid below. Some numbers are given to get you started. Can you fill in the rest of the path?



### Checkers

Make a move for white so that eight black pieces are left, none of which are in the same column or row.



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



# Renovating Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

By David B. Lê  
Staff Writer

The latest renovation to the San Quentin chapel known as Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church was made to the century-old floor.

The renovation was made possible by Salvatore Caruso's donation of thousands of vinyl wood-like planks; the planks were installed by the San Quentin vocational maintenance program.

"The Children of Abraham Peace Project," Caruso said, "...was our way to give thanks and gratitude to the God of Abraham for the peaceful fraternity amongst the Christian, Jewish and Muslim people of San Quentin."

The inmate installation crew, which was assembled by Dante Callegari, consisted of the following: leadsmen Bruce M. Fowler and Scott McKinstry; assistants Marco Villa, Tare Beltranchuc, Joe Hancock, and Nicola Bucci; and students Brandon Rogers, Jesus Perez, Serio P. Carrillo and Eusebio Gonzalez.

Carl Canses supervised the crew that provided 462 man-hours to lay about 5,000 square feet of the chapel.



Photo by Steve Emrick

Top row: Jesus Perez, Bruce M. Flower, Joe Hancock, Scott McKinstry, Serio P. Carrillo, Brandon Rogers  
Bottom row: Eusebio Gonzalez, Jaime Sanchez, Tare Beltranchuc, Nicola Bucci

"Working on the chapel floor gives me experience I need," said Bucci, holding on to one of the arm's-length

planks. For several decades, the chapel floor has been the site for countless inmates and

volunteers to gather for learning and celebrating the Christian faith as well as other programs.

The chapel accommodates various programs and events, such as Restorative Justice Roundtables, which meet

weekly to explore restorative practices, and Patten University's annual open-mic sessions for students to share their artistic expressions.

Moreover, the old chapel floor has served musicians such as Bread & Roses' Kurt Hugel and Tony Saunders, Linda Rice and Giorgi Khokhobashvili, who performed messages of peace and love to the incarcerated population.

Previous upgrades include the installation of remote-control blinds that cover the statue of Mary and Jesus during nonreligious events, as well as three flat-screen televisions, of which two hang high in the front corners and one in the back.

The next upgrade occurred in 2017 with the addition of a carved-wood mural that stretches atop the chapel entrance, depicting the victory of good over evil.

The new floor's lifespan will be about 50 years. In turn, the chapel will continue to host events and programs, making San Quentin the hub of rehabilitation, unlike any other prison within California.

The once lifeless and grayish tile floor of the chapel is now a vibrant "wood" red.



Photo by Steve Emrick

Scott McKinstry scraping up the floor glue



Photo by Steve Emrick

Jaime Sanchez, Tare Beltranchuc and Bruce M. Flower



Photo by Steve Emrick

Nicola Bucci and Joe Hancock



Photo by Steve Emrick

The Chapel floor before it was remodelled

## Use of force bill underway

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

State Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) plans to introduce a bill that would require the public disclosure of investigations of serious uses of force within police departments, including police shootings.

Some of the most rigid laws that block the public from police personnel records are in California.

California's rules are so tough that last year a state appellate court ruled the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department can't tell prosecutors the names of deputies with confirmed cases of misconduct, the *Los Angeles Times* reports. The case is under review by the California Supreme Court.

Lizzie Buchen, a legislative advocate for the Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union of California, told the *Times* that the new legislation is necessary because people have a right to know how law enforcement treats those cases.

"Currently, the public is completely shut out of the entire disciplinary process," Buchen said in the article. "When an officer kills someone, which is an extreme example of their ability to use force, the public has no way of actually knowing how it was handled by that agency."

The legislation has taken on new urgency since the March 18 killing of 22-year-old Stephon Clark by Sacramento police, Buchen said in the *Times*. Clark was shot by police in his grandmother's backyard during a vandalism investigation while he was unarmed and carrying a cellphone.

Under current law, the Sacramento Police Department investigation won't become public except through any potential criminal prosecution of the officers or civil litigation against the city. Besides opening access to use of force investigations, Skinner's proposed bill would also require the disclosure of confirmed cases of sexual assault and lying while on duty.

Representatives with the California State Sheriff's Association, California Police Chiefs Association and the Peace Officers Research Association of California—the state's largest police labor organization—declined to comment on the legislation in the *Times* report.

Skinner said she wouldn't comment on the bill until she introduces it, the *Times* reports.

## Inmate death notification bill passes in Senate Public Safety Committee

By Achilles Williams  
Journalism Guild Writer

Legislation is working its way through the California Legislature that would require prisons to promptly notify family or contact persons when an inmate dies, attempts suicide, or is seriously ill or injured.

The measure, SB 960, would ensure that prison officials notify family members and loved ones within 24 hours, reported *East County Today*.

"While in custody, inmates must receive the mental health and other services they need to keep them safe and healthy," said the author, Sen. Connie M. Leyva, D-Chino.

The Senate Public Safety Committee approved SB 960 in April.

"It is disturbing that, for years, California prison suicide rates have been higher than those across the country. California prisons must clearly take affirmative steps to make sure that inmates receive the care and services they need to prevent injuries and deaths -- and particularly suicide," stated Leyva.

In 2017, the California State Auditor observed several state prisons' shortcomings related to suicide response and prevention, the article stated. The auditor's results showed that some state pris-

ons have failed to monitor at-risk inmates, complete behavioral risk evaluations and treatment plans, and did not have staff complete required training related to suicide prevention and response.

The audit pointed out that, from 2005 through 2013, the average suicide rate in California prisons (22 per 100,000) was considerably higher than the average rate of 15.66 per 100,000 in U.S. state prisons.

A state audit released last

year revealed that state prisons did not properly implement policy and procedures, according to the article. This factor may have added to the recent rise in female inmate suicides.

In 2012, women accounted for 5 percent of state prisons' inmate population and 4 percent of its suicides. From 2014 to 2016, they made up four percent of the inmate population but accounted for 11 percent of suicides, the article reported.



File Photo

Sen. Connie M. Leyva, D. Chino

# An iconic world leader remembered: Nelson Mandela at 100 years

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild  
Chairman

Waking up to the police knocking loudly at the door, an arrest warrant presented, the house searched and then being dragged off in front of his wife and kids, so began Nelson Mandela's 27-year prison sentence for treason.

The late president of South Africa and Nobel Peace Prize winner would have celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Mandela was a freedom fighter whose words and actions have influenced millions of lives, a country and the world's criminal justice system.

"It was this desire for the freedom of my people to live their lives with dignity and self-respect that animated my life, transformed a frightened young man into a bold one, that drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal," wrote Mandela in his autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*.

Mandela spent his early years fighting South Africa's apartheid system of racism and inequality. He was

a member of the African National Congress (ANC), a political party that opposed apartheid, and he became the head of the organization. His activism eventually led to being put on trial and jailed for his political beliefs. Facing claims that the ANC wanted to overthrow the government, Mandela and other ANC leaders were threatened with death.

"I was prepared for the death penalty," Mandela wrote. "To be truly prepared for something, one must actually expect it. One cannot be prepared for something while secretly believing it will not happen."

"We were all prepared, not because we were brave but because we were realistic," Mandela added.

After a lengthy trial, Mandela and the others were found guilty on the charge of conspiracy to commit high treason. But due to international pressure, they were sentenced to life in prison.

Mandela endured situations most prisoners encounter while serving time behind bars. He dealt with

prison bureaucracy, unsanitary conditions and separation from family.

During a visit from his then-wife, Winnie Mandela, who recently died, Mandela tried to comfort and prepare her for what was to come.

"We quickly discussed family matters, especially how she would support herself and the children. I mentioned the names of friends who would help her and also clients of mine who still owed me money."

"I told her to tell the children the truth of my capture and how I would be away for a long time," Mandela continued.

He was sent to Robben Island prison, where he spent his first year in solitary confinement for filing grievances against the prison conditions, including the quality of the food and clothing and policies relating to visits. These conditions started to change once the International Red Cross got involved.

"I found solitary confinement the most forbidding aspect of prison life," he wrote. "But the human body has enormous capacity for

adjusting to trying circumstances. I found that one can bear the unbearable if one can keep one's spirits strong even when one's body is being tested."

Mandela continued to study law with the University of London through a correspondence course. He continued filing grievances on the prison conditions; he even won religious services for the prisoners.

As the years passed, Mandela had to deal with what most prisoners dread: the deaths of loved ones. He lost his mother and his eldest son.

"A mother's death causes a man to look back on and evaluate his own life. Her difficulties, her poverty, made me question once again whether I had taken the right path," Mandela wrote. "That was the conundrum: Had I made the right choice in putting the people's welfare even before my own family?"

"My family had not asked for or even wanted to be involved in the struggle, but my involvement penalized them," Mandela continued.

The cries to free Mandela



File Photo

The late President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela

and ban apartheid grew as time passed. Protests even reached the shores of the U.S.

Mandela was released Feb. 11, 1990. He became the first democratically elected president of South Africa in 1994. When he died, the world mourned his passing.

In 2015, the U.N. adopted the Nelson Mandela Rules, a revised version of The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners first implemented in 1957.

The first rule is "Respect for prisoners' inherent dignity." It requires the prisoners be treated with due regard for their dignity and value as human beings. It

prohibits torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.

"When I walked out of prison, that was my mission to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor both," Mandela wrote. "Some say that has now been achieved. But I know that is not the case. The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free, the right not to be oppressed."

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning."

## California prisoners earning college degrees for their future

By Lloyd Payne  
Journalism Guild Writer

Some California prisoners are working hard on college degrees to help them be successful when they return to their communities.

One of the latest examples is the English 99 class at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in Otay Mesa, which leads to an associate of arts college degree.

"The level of critical thought and commentary is much higher than I would typically get from a room where I'm teaching 18- to 21-year-olds," said John Rieder of Southwestern College, who teaches the class.

The higher education opportunity for prisoners is part of an Obama-era pilot program that extended Pell Grants to 12,000 prisoners.

A *KPBS* news story in April said the Trump administration could end the grants, so the focus of the

program is to get those involved into caps and gowns, reduce recidivism, and demonstrate to the government the importance of the Second Chance Pell Grant program.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Inmates graduating from the Prison University Project in San Quentin

The class has helped defuse racial tension on a population yard where there has been racial politics, according to Jason Hicks, who helps coordinate the Southwestern program.

According to Hicks, racial tension disappears when they get into a classroom. "You'll notice that the guys are willing to help each other out. I think it really shows rehabilitation at its best."

Collectively the students had a 3.91 grade point average at the beginning of the semester, according to the article.

For many California department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) prisoners, their only option to earn an associate degree prior to the program was distant learning courses. These correspondence courses require prisoners to purchase books most could not afford without the Pell Grants.

Rieder said his class draws on psychology, philoso-

phy, and poetry to explore the themes of education and power.

He added, "Higher education leads to empowerment. And that's a great narrative. I love that narrative."

The students wear light blue shirts and navy pants with CDCR PRISONER printed in bold yellow letters. They carry their books, papers and pens in clear plastic bags instead of book bags.

Student Kyle Baughman, 31, who has hazel eyes and a star tattooed onto his shaved head, brings up critical discussions in class about edu-

cation.

"Hey, do you guys see some kind of connection?" he asks his classmates. "The kids of judges and lawyers and the people that make all this money, they're taught differently, as opposed to the way we're taught."

He grew up in Orange County's criminal justice system, according to the article. He earned his high school diploma while in Juvenile Hall.

"Most of the schools I went to growing up were probation schools," Baughman said. "I felt like, if I didn't go, I'm going to get

locked up."

His involvement with criminals and a gang resulted in crimes of carjacking and robbery, which earned him an enhanced sentence of 15 years to life.

In Rieder's class, Baughman has the opportunity to work out some of the large things that may have brought him to prison, according to the *KPBS* article.

"The inmate is now looking at things in a different light. They are looking to see how to better themselves," said Lance Eshelman, the Donovan Community Resources Manager.

## California's early release programs

By Wayne Boatwright  
Staff Writer

California has several little-known programs that have allowed hundreds of prison inmates to go home up to a year early.

Prisoners must apply to participate. More than a thousand people have been able to serve the last 12 months of their sentence in their communities.

The main program is called the Alternative Custody Program (ACP). It places inmates in a residential home, residential drug-treatment program, or transitional care facility.

"For all the excitement about commutations, the ACP provides a mechanism for early release available to a significant number of the prison population," according to a corrections counselor. The counselor asked not to be identified by name.

ACP is a voluntary program developed for non-violent, non-serious and non-registerable sex offense inmates.

Interested prisoners submit an Application for Voluntary Agreement (CDCR Form 2234). The form requires a listing of at least two places where the person would like to live.

Factors that play into approval include:

The applicant must have private medical insurance or be in the process of applying for government medical insurance.

The applicant must have no more than 12 months and no less than 45 days left on their sentence.

The applicant must not be a validated gang member (STG II) or have a gang association.

The applicant must not have a conviction for child abuse.

ACP participants remain under California prison jurisdiction and are supervised by its parole division.

"The process can be long," the correction counselor warned. If the prisoner is eligible, "prison staff are supposed to take no more than 30 calendar days to prepare an Individualized Treatment and Rehabilitation Plan (ITRP)." That would be followed by referral to an Institutional Classification Committee. The committee would then decide whether or not to recommend ACP placement (15 CCR Section 2078.4), according to the Prison Law Office.

ACP started on Jan. 1, 2011, only for female prisoners under Penal Code (PC) Section

1170.05. In September 2015, male prisoners qualified when a federal court found that excluding them violated the constitutional guarantee of equal protection. (*Sassman v. Brown* 99 F.Supp.3d 1233.)

As of April, there have been 316 male and 676 female completions as part of this program.

The California department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has other programs beyond ACP for short-timers seeking an early return to their community. These programs include:

Custody to Community Transitional Re-entry Program (CCTRP). Over 800 female inmates have participated in this program, according to Krissi Khokhobashvili, CDCR's Public Information Officer II (Supervisor).

Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP). "As of Feb. 14, 2018, 628 inmates are housed in reentry facilities," according to JST Document 2012-2 Filed 02-15-18.

Community Prisoner Mother Program (CPMP). Some 91 female inmates have participated in this program since its launch in 2012.

Inmates who think they may be eligible for any of these programs should contact their corrections counselor.

## Inmate NAACP chapter in Delaware

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

Inmates at a Delaware state prison have created an NAACP chapter to litigate for rehabilitation, compassionate release, improved health care, and better living conditions.

"My top priority is for inmates to understand that we have the power to change things via political and judicial processes," said Robert Saunders, inmate at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in Delaware, and chairman of the Legal Redress Committee and NAACP Prison Chapter 2032.

In association with the NAACP, the group is officially called the Legal Redress Committee (LRC), which is dedicated to the principle that inmates are persons with indisputable rights to justice.

"We strive to provide safe-

guards to our constitutional and human rights," the group says in its pamphlet. "We believe that conditions of confinement should not be to the alienation and hostility of inmates within prison or after re-entering society."

The group accomplishes its goal through its stated mission "of working to build strong bridges between the inmates and community, and bring forth the voices of inmates. Central to our work is training ourselves, loved ones and supporters in self-advocacy through public protest, networking, coalition building, letter writing and contacting prison officials." Its activities center around assisting inmates when they encounter problems they perceive as illegal or unjust.

Many of the lawsuits and complaints filed by the group thus far focus on inadequate medical care, poor living

conditions, unjust disciplinary proceedings, arbitrary rule enforcement, visiting difficulties, staff brutality, unfair denial of religious practice, limited access to legal assistance, racial discrimination, and mail tampering. But through legal redress, it has helped spark an investigation by the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department into the state of medical conditions. It also successfully lobbied for statewide prison hospice care in 2000, although no program has yet resulted.

"Despite the contempt and disdain for our effort to bring reform and sanity into the system, there is one thing I am certain of: our work will eventually come to fruition," Saunders said. "The desire of human beings to live as human beings is irrepressible. Our chapter isn't going away. All good ideas have a power that carries them on."



# Van Jones' Redemption Project

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

CNN commentator Van Jones, Jones was at San Quentin on May 10 working on his latest show, *The Redemption Project*. It consists of eight episodes that feature restorative justice in action.

Jones, a political pundit and author of *Beyond the Messy Truth: How We Came Apart — How We Come Together* seeks to tackle Americans' toughest challenge — how to get Americans working together in the age of Trumpism.

"We need a positive populism," Jones said. "Right now, Donald Trump is using negative populism that divides people with a neo-Nazi message."

Jones said he doesn't want to take sides, and he wrote *Beyond the Messy Truth* to show Republicans and Democrats what they have in common.

"Republicans have some admirable qualities, being the party of Lincoln, but they've developed some blind spots in racial bigotry, misogyny, Islamophobia, and other



Photo by Adnan Khan

Van Jones in the SQ News room

kinds of biases," he said.

"The Democrats have some important positions, being the party of working families, but they've developed some blind spots through a kind of elitism and snobbery against people who haven't gone to the finest colleges and listened to NPR. Both parties have to do a lot of reflecting."

"I talk to people who've

done regrettable things, and they want to make amends," Jones said.

He was interviewing an inmate at San Quentin who wanted to make amends for shooting a police officer.

Jones is a busy man. Finding solutions through his writing, airing cable shows showing how restorative justice works—all are accomplished while he also hosts *The Van Jones Show*.

"It's *Sesame Street* for grown folks," Jones said. "We're bringing celebrities and grass-roots people together to have meaningful conversations without being mean to each other. We've had the likes of Oprah, Al Gore, Jay-Z, and Steph Curry."

"Common ground is what we should be discussing and finding in America," Jones said. "The opioid crisis is a concern for Democrats and Republicans, as well as mass incarceration and full employment." He added, "If I agree with you, then a democracy allows us to work together — same as if I disagree with you, a democracy allows us to still work together."

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Jackson, Ga.** — On May 4, Robert Earl Butts Jr., 40, was executed by lethal injection, *The Associated Press* reports. Butts was convicted along with 41-year-old Marion Wilson Jr. in the March 1996 slaying of Donovan Corey Parks, an off-duty prison guard.

**California** — County jail inmates who take psychotropic drugs increased about 25 percent in five years and represent about a fifth of the nation's jail population, reports *U.S. News and World Reports*. The number of people with mental illness in jails and prisons is "astronomical," said Michael Romano, director of Three Strikes & Justice Advocacy Project at Stanford Law School. "In many ways, the whole justice system is overwhelmed with mental illness." California contributes to the problem by sending inmates who would have served time in state prison to county jails. The move came in response to a 2011 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said the state's unconstitutionally overcrowded prisons resulted in poor medical and mental health care.

**Illinois** — More than 160 inmates have no hope for parole for crimes they committed as juveniles, the *Chicago Sun Times* reports. The situation exists even after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled six years ago that sentencing juveniles to life without the possibility of parole violate the U.S. Constitution. State courts and legislatures nationwide are figuring out how to apply the Supreme Court decision that ruled youthful offenders' brains are not fully developed and therefore are less culpable when the crime was committed and more likely to reform as they get older.

**Cranston, RI** — The state parole board is overhauling its guidelines — taking age, immaturity and rehabilitation efforts into consideration for release of offenders convicted of crimes committed before age 18, the *Providence Journal* reports. The "diminished culpability" of juveniles is considered as well as immaturity at the time of the crime, maturity behind bars, participation in rehabilitative and educational programs,



and review of educational and court documents. The board also adopted new procedures for "youthful" offenders who were under 21 at the time of their crimes. Additional consideration is given to the home and community environment at the time of the crime and evidence of remorse. If parole is denied, the board reconsiders its decision within three years.

**Boston, Mass.** — A lawsuit filed last May challenged a practice by several county sheriffs that provides phone services for inmates, the *Boston Globe Media Partners* reports. The lawsuit alleges that the contract with Securix includes an illegal payoff that has nearly doubled the cost inmates have to pay for phone calls. Securix paid the sheriffs' offices \$1.7 million between August 2011 and June 2013. Securix then paid the sheriffs' office a fee of \$820,000 to cover 2016 to 2020. In Franklin County inmates have to pay \$3.21 for the first minute and 21 cents for every additional minute, bringing the cost of a 15-minute call to \$6.15. In Suffolk County, the first minute costs \$3 while the additional minute is 10 cents. At Bristol County, Securix charges \$3.16 for the first minute and 16 cents for each additional minute. There is a rule to cap phone charges for prisoners. But phone companies circumvent it saying that they are Internet-based, therefore the rule from the landline era doesn't apply to them.

**Louisiana** — Troy Rhodes, a 37-year-old African-American man was convicted by a 10-2 jury verdict in New Orleans for armed robbery and attempted murder. Rhodes was sentenced to 149 years in prison, and according to *The Crime Report*, he may not

have committed the crimes. The only eyewitness in the trial, identified Rhodes as the perpetrator, but when the witness made the identification, he was under medication. Rhodes' trial attorney didn't challenge the witness' medical records or ask for the records to be shown to the jury. Louisiana and Oregon are the only states with non-unanimous jury laws.

**Louisiana** — Inmates at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center decided that drugs and violence were out of control. The concerned inmates met with law enforcement and community leaders to come up with a mentorship program, *Corrections One* reports. The mentors moved into dorms with inmates who had disciplinary problems to coach them. Warden Tim Hooper said the move has shown great results. Violence at the facility is down, which Hooper attributes to the mentoring inmates. "At the end of the day, it comes down to choices. Individual choices. You just have to make the right choice," one of the mentoring inmates said.

**USA** — Federal prison officials reversed a policy that banned delivery of books by mail directly from publishers and bookstores, *The Washington Post* reports. Under the rules, inmates in at least four facilities were required to order books only through a prison-approved vendor and, at three of the prisons, to pay an extra 30 percent markup. Prison officials told *The Washington Post* that the bureau had rescinded the memo and will review the policy to "ensure we strike the right balance between maintaining the safety and security of our institutions and inmate access to correspondence and reading materials."

# Legendary song writer's history

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

It's been 40 years since Glen Sherley, the legendary song writer who created the song "Greystone Chapel," took his own life at age 42, according to *For The Californian*.

Sherley wrote the song about the chapel in Folsom State Prison, where he was serving time for armed robbery when Johnny Cash came to perform there in 1968.

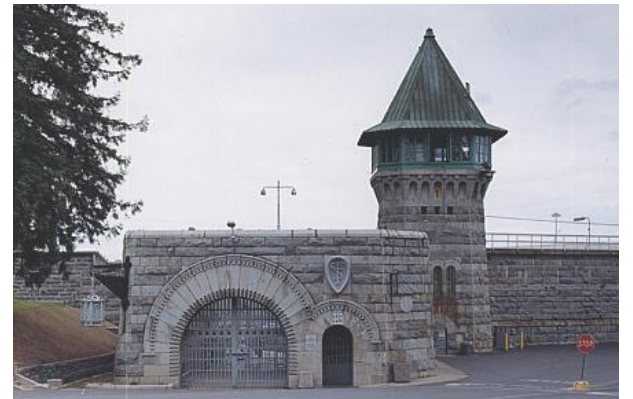
"Inside the walls of prison, my body may be. But my lord has set my heart free," Sherley wrote. Cash heard those words on Sherley's demo tape and learned them in time to perform "Greystone Chapel" at the prison on Jan. 11, 1986.

Later the song was released on the album titled "Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison."

Sherley was born in Oklahoma March 9, 1936. He moved from Oklahoma to California to pursue a new start. He hoped to escape the Dust Bowl that plagued Oklahoma at the time.

California proved troublesome for him, however. Crimes he committed as a teen landed him in state prison, according to the article.

Cash pushed for Sherley's release from prison and afterward sponsored him, giving him opportunities to perform.



File Photo

Folsom State Prison

Upon his parole, Sherley made his own album, "Glen Sherley, Live at Vacaville, California."

Not long after his release, however, Sherley found his way back into crime and drugs. Because of this, Cash released him from his music group, according to the article. On May 11, 1978, Sherley's brother found his body in the trailer they shared in Gonzalez, California, according to *The Californian*. He had taken his own life.

As children, his daughter Ronda and her brother Bruce accompanied their aunt, who frequently visited Sherley at the various prison in which he served time. Sherley sister would provide Glen new recording tapes and pick up full reels on her visits to the pris-

ons, according to the article.

Recently, Ronda and family have re-released some of his music. The album is titled, "Glen Sherley's: Released Again." On it, Sherley introduces "Greystone Chapel."

"I'd like to try and do one for you that some of you may have heard already. Because 'The Man' took it and made it his."

Rhonda thinks Cash and Sherley formed a friendship because of their music and because they had endured many of the same struggles. She hopes to release more of their father's music, describing it as "About real stuff, heartbreak, loss, that type of thing - and that to me is country music and that's what my Dad wrote about."

## BOOK REVIEW

*Beyond the Messy Truth: How We Came Apart\*How We Come Together* (2017) is a frank reading of American-style democracy that encourages an honest debate on how to shape the country.

Author Van Jones travels around the country, touting *The Beautiful Work: Four Solutions* that he says would clean up the "Messy Truth" concerning the way Americans came apart and what conservatives and progressives could do to find unity.

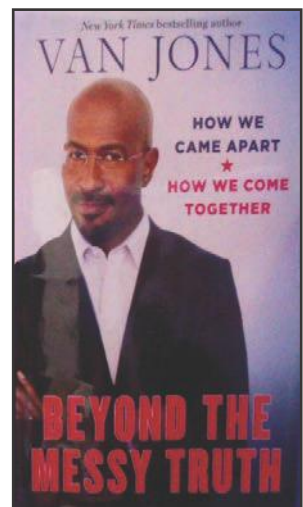
*Beyond the Messy Truth* takes readers through a fact-based history that is hard to dispute.

In 2016, American voters were fed up with political business as usual:

- Thousands of manufacturing jobs were lost when both parties backed flawed policies, like the North American Free Trade Agreement.
- The country's "war on drugs" didn't put a dent in drug use; it only caused mass-incarceration.
- The economic meltdown in 2008 wiped out trillions of dollars of American wealth and caused millions of people to lose their home. Adding insult to injury, voters felt like Wall Street's greed caused the recession and the government bailed out corporations under a "too big to fail" policy touted by presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.
- The country was involved in a misguided war in Iraq.
- The country's lack of a sound immigration policy added fuel to the fire.

Jones breaks down the atmosphere in America that carried Donald J. Trump into the presidency:

*As unnerving as it is to have an erratic narcissist in power, any analysis of his rise must start with an ac-*



*knowledge that both parties have been letting down the American people for a long time.*

Jones is not the first author to recognize the flaws in the progressive movement while analyzing the success conservatives have had getting their message to the man on the street. Jones advises progressives to read — *Listen Liberal: Or, What Ever Happened to the Party of the People?* by Thomas Frank. He describes it as "the perfect book for liberals who are willing to take a long, hard look in the mirror."

*Brown Is the New White* (2016) by Steve Phillips also suggests that progressive leadership should, "Dethrone the data dummies and pay more attention to the wisdom of grassroots activists." Jones wants readers to learn from Bernie Sanders' mistakes. He points out that if Sanders had followed the fundamental lesson in Phillips' book—pay attention to a more diverse constituency by securing more Black voters—his campaign could have overcome the Hillary Clinton machine.

On the other hand, according to Jones, voters didn't believe Hillary Clinton could solve their problems and that led to her gradual diminishing appeal to the man on the street.

Delving into the core of *Beyond the Messy Truth*, Jones explores the real problems that he maintains worry both conservatives and pro-

gressives; on the top of that list is fixing the criminal justice system.

His long list of reform measures includes ending the overuse of court fees, fines and money bail.

He asserts that dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline is vital.

Jones' other solutions call for ending incarceration for low-level crimes, relaxing mandatory minimum sentences and shutting down the use of solitary confinement. He says we need to have more educational opportunities for incarcerated people and to promote better ways to connect with their loved ones.

Jones' advice includes ending housing, employment and voting restrictions that make returning to the community difficult.

*Beyond the Messy Truth* does not shy away from the addiction crisis in America. He says the "detox and die" model must be stopped. Currently, addicts go into detox, get clean for a short period, and then turn back to drugs with a diminished tolerance level that makes it easier for them to overdose. He wants to make lifesaving drugs more available to addicts and calls for decriminalizing addiction. He proposes referring addicts to community service providers and asks that insurance companies support treatment.

A cornerstone of Jones' solution-based ideas that appeal to conservatives and progressives is creating high-tech "clean" jobs that propel the economy into the 21st century.

"Only in a dictatorship does everybody have to agree. In a democracy, nobody has to agree. That's called freedom," Jones writes. "We need to develop the emotional strength and resilience to re-engage intelligently and constructively with the half of America that sees things very differently than we do."

Jones calls for "spaces where we listen to one another and show up humble enough to accept the fact that we might have something to learn."

—By Juan Haines

# New cleats help SQ soccer team win 10-7

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

The San Quentin Soccer A-Team beat the visiting Outsiders 10-7 and you can blame it all on the goalie.

Sponsor Andrew Crawford, who played goalie for the Outsiders, arranged for a donation of cleats for the inside guys. Before the cleats, San Quentin was 0-5 (including three losses from last season). Since the cleats, SQ is 2-1.

"I think the cleats made a huge difference and we've been training together," Crawford said in his British accent. "Everything clicked. This is a team to be taken serious. It's going to be a tough rest of the year."

Crawford also trained the SQ team for the May 25 game.

The match was com-

petitive. In the first half, the Outsiders scored three goals, two off the feet of Dario Abramskiehn and one by Rohit Ramchandani.

But with the help of new arrival Eleazar Sanchez, who scored six goals total, the SQ A-team took a 6-3 lead by halftime. Sanchez scored three goals in the half, with two more by Carlos Ramirez and one by Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc.

In the second half, the Outsides made a comeback, scoring two goals within the first five minutes of the period. Abramskiehn kicked in the first and Sam Heminger the second, which made the score 6-5 San Quentin.

The A-Team responded with a goal by Beltranchuc.

Then Sanchez poured on three more goals, including a header for the 10th A-Team goal.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

Front row: Isidro Arreola, Ryan Lacey, Eleazar Sanchez, Carlos Ramirez, John Almeida, Sam Heminger, Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc, Marco Villa, Andrew Crawford, Dario Abramskiehn, Carlos Meza. Back row from left to right: Manuel Murillo, Julio Martinez, Miguel Gutierrez, Rohit Ramchandani, Jorge Hernandez, Agustin Munoz, J.P. Heinrich, Angel "Don Pinocho" Villafan, Roid Rosenberg, Jose Vieyra, Zach Moore, Matt McClellan and Jordi Ortiz.

Heminger scored two more goals in the period for a total of three, but the Outsider fall short of a comeback.

After the game, both teams circled around to talk.

"You win some, you lose some," A-Team mid-fielder Juan "Carlos" Meza said while smiling. "I agonize over these games because (in the past) we lost so bad.

I love this game. I thank you guys for coming and playing hard and not letting us win. You guys bring such a blessing."

Outsider Ryan Lacey responded, "I like that you play hard but nothing dirty."

You came out hard and kicked our butts. That sucks - I'm going to have to go running to train."

Outsider Jordi Orti, who grew up in Barcelona playing soccer, added, "We are gonna train and come back."

## SQ A's nearly shutout Rockies

By Timothy Hicks  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin A's nearly shut out the visiting Rockies, beating them 13-1, by playing as a team.

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give. It's a team sport, and we play for each other," A's Short Stop Brandon Terrell, who went 3 for 5 with 2 RBI's, said.

The Rockies' only run came in the third inning.

At the top of the third, the Rockies scored one run, leaving them down 4-1 with two men on base and one out. The batter knocked the ball toward second baseman Chris "Cutty" Smith, who made a double play.

"The offense hit a line shot, and we turned a double play, me and Brandon," Smith said "I knew I could trust him, and he would be there for the third out."

In the bottom of the third, the A's added two runs to their lead.

Terrell led the A's roster in the third with a base hit up the middle putting him on first base.

Left fielder Leigh Olden, who went 3 for 4 with one RBI, followed up with a base hit which landed Brandon on second.

The Rockies threw Anthony "T-Tone" Denard out at first.

Denard said, "Love this team. We played and stuck together through it all."

Smith, who had 3 for 5 and



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

A's Brian Holliday overlooking the game

2 RBI's, brought in two runs with a fly ball to right field, giving the A's a 5-point lead.

"All the players contributed and did good jobs," Coach John "Yah Yah" Parratt, President of Baseball Operations for the A's, said. "A short season and this has been the best game so far. Best performance by everybody."

A's pitcher Jeff "Duey" Dumont kept the heat on the Rockies. He struck out eight batters by the seventh inning while the Rockies' defense allowed four more runs.

"We're just not hitting the ball," Rockies left fielder James Madden said.

Rockies second baseman Elvin Vu added, "We're not making plays and stringing hits is why we are losing."

Both credited Dumont's pitching.

A's Coach William said, "We got a good team; even with the wins and losses we play as a team. Everybody is just trying to have a good time."

Michael Kremer, who runs the baseball program and is head coach for the Rockies, said, "I give credit to the A's offense for their lead."

He also said this about his organization, "We're excited for another year at SQ baseball. I'm excited about the team's chemistry and them coming together. I'm really focused on the way everybody is focused in on team unity and the interest of each other."

He invites anyone who wants to participate in the baseball program to do so by contacting the regional director at SQ.

## Club Mexico baseball team spilt double header

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild  
Chairman

The San Quentin A's baseball team spilt a double header with the visiting Club Mexico who traveled from Stockton to do battle for its third year.

Club Mexico dominated the first game winning 10-5, but the A's smoked Club Mexico in the late afternoon contest 6-1.

Club Mexico's center-fielder Gino Ballardo started the first game by smashing a blazing homerun over the left field gate. Ballardo jog leisurely around the bases to let the A's know they came to play.

"I was just thinking I must really love baseball to be standing in the middle of a prison field, when anything can happen," said Ballardo, who visited San Quentin for the second time.

"Really baseball helps you relax, to be a kid again and you can get away from everything for a couple of hours."

Club Mexico plays in the California Mexican Baseball League in Stockton. The league is very family

orientated and made-up of second- and third-generation players. Club Mexico is the last original team of the league that was formed in 1955 by Mexican-American field workers in response to racism from other leagues. The league has expanded to include a variety of different people who love the game.

Joe "The Magician" Elias, Club Mexico coach, has turned his trips to the prison to a teaching tool for the young players in his league and those inside the prison.

"Anybody can be on this side of the wall by accident or on purpose," said Elias. "I grow up in the hood and seen guys come in-and-out of prison. So I try to bring guys in here (San Quentin) who are on the fence in their lives."

"If you learn this game it will give you structure and teach you how to work as a team. So when you get out and get a job you can work as team even when you don't like everybody," added Elias.

Club Mexico dominated through superb pitching and taking advantage of the A's mistakes on defense. The A's dropped balls, over-

threw bases and failed to turn doubles extending the innings for Club Mexico to add runs.

"We had to many mental errors and you can't do that with a team of their caliber," said Terry Burton, A's inmate coach. "The one who makes the least mistakes wins the game."

Club Mexico played the second game a little sluggish, while the A's limited their mistakes and turned better defensive plays. The A's ran the bases aggressively, keeping Club Mexico on their toes.

The A's showed that they have the talent to compete and have a short memory when it comes to losses.

"These guys can ball-up. They exceeded my expectation," said Dave Martinez, Club Mexico pitcher. "It was a great experience. We all enjoyed a great game in a difficult place."

The A's Zach Moore added, "We have a strong team. We can put up the runs. We just have to work on the defense. I came to prison at age 15, (now in his 30s) what I learn over time and from this program is how to take instructions."

## Fasting doesn't slow Muslim participants in 10-mile race

The 1000 Mile running club held a 10-mile race during the holy month of Ramadan. Several Muslims competed, including Bruce Wells, who managed to finish, although far behind Markelle Taylor, who took first place.

"All glory to Allah, I was able to finish," Wells said. "I feel more mentally prepared because it was Ramadan."

During Ramadan, Muslims do not eat or drink water from sunup until sundown.

The race started at 9 a.m. May 25. Muslim runners Wells, 54, LaCedrick Johnson, 52, Jerry Gearin, 51, and Eric Moody, 48, couldn't have a sip of water till about 8:26 p.m., yet performed well in the race.

Moody completed seven miles, Gearin 8.75 miles,



Photo by Jonath Mathew, courtesy of Christine Yoo

Bruce Wells running at San Quentin

while Wells and Johnson ran the whole 10.

"I feel wonderful," Wells said after the race with a huge smile on his face. "I'm not exhausted."

He beat his 2016 time of 1:32:53 by completing the 40 laps in 1 hour, 24 minutes and 44 seconds.

Johnson came in 14th with a time of 1:31:22.

The cool weather under overcast skies helped.

"Good conditions, nice and cool but too many alarms," sponsor Frank Ruona said. "We had to deal with four alarms for a total of seven minutes of down time."

The alarms required all incarcerated people on the yard to sit on the ground until disturbances elsewhere in the prison were cleared.

Taylor took first with a

time of 59:26 despite having to regain his momentum after each alarm.

"I wanted to break my record," Taylor said. "Those alarms killed me. I had to run stiff every time I got up."

He missed his 2016 record by two seconds but came in several minutes before the next runner.

He dedicated the win to people with physical and mental disabilities.

"Never give up in life," Taylor said.

Chris Scull took second with a time of 1:07:45 without his training partner and nemesis Eddie Herena in the race. The 5-foot-2 Herena was assisting the teaching of a Prison University Project biology class.

In third place came Vincent Gomez with a time of

1:08:06.

Steve Brooks edged out Steve Reitz for fourth place with respective times of 1:13:36 and 1:13:47.

The older men in the club showed the benefits of running.

The 62-year-old Larry Ford broke the 60-and-over record with a time of 1:19:21 and an eighth-place spot overall.

Mike Keeeyes, 72, broke the 70-and-over record with a time of 1:34:07 and a 15th overall place.

Alvin Timbol stopped short after six miles with a time of 55:56. However, the distance was an improvement.

"This is the longest I've run for the club," Timbol said.

-By Rahsaan Thomas

# St. Mary's Alumnis score 59 on SQ Warriors

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Despite 27, turnovers, two St. Mary's College Alumni combined for 59 points to lead the visiting Imago Dei basketball team to a 90-84 victory over the San Quentin Warriors.

"It's bigger than basketball," Warriors Coach Rafael Cuevas said. "I appreciate the level of competition you guys brought today. I love the way you pour your heart out in the game and off the court too."

Teohn Conner, who went to St. Mary's and played semi-pro for Bay Areas teams like the SF Rumbles and Pittsburg Pit-bulls, completed a triple double with 36 points, 16 rebounds and 11 turnovers. He also had 6 steals and 4 assists.

Teammate Brett "BC" Collins, a 2007 St. Mary's graduate and former basketball team player, added, 21 points, 11 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals.

The sunny day started out with a warm welcome from SQ basketball program general manager Brian Asey.

"You guys come in here and show us love," Asey said then handed out Day of Peace wrist bands made of rubber with slogan like, "Believer of



Teohn Conner getting doubled teamed by SQ Warriors Brad Shells and Jesse Blue

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

peace."

Everyone put their hands in the middle and yelled, "family," after the count of three.

After the opening tip, Conner played like a man possessed, partly due to a 2017 controversial call that cost Imago a chance to win their season finale. The time keeper claimed that time had run out before a ref made the call

that sent Conner to the line to shoot free throws with Imago down one point.

"The biggest thing for me is to be competitive but that call is always in the back of my head," Conner said. "I'm playing with a chip on my shoulder – it wasn't right."

Imago started out hot and quickly gained a 8-2 lead. Warrior Coach Cuevas

started Harry "ATL" Smith, Allan McIntosh, Walter Cook, Tevin "Cutty" Fournette and newcomer Jamia Johnson.

The 5-foot-4 Cook playing big. He dropped 20 points, including a three that gave his team a 9-8 lead with 3:22 left in the first.

"It's not about your height in inches, it's about the

height of your heart," Cook said.

Imago's Steve "Big Red" Sanderson, who weighs 305 pounds, said "Walt boxes out the best on their team. He has that low center of gravity. I can't move him."

By the end of the first quarter, the Warriors led 21-16 largely due to Imago turnovers.

Towards the end of the second quarter, Collins tied the score at 40 with an And-one. But at half time, the Warriors led 44-42.

Early in the second half, Imago's Tony Thomas shocked the crowd when he dribbled out of a double team by bouncing the ball between Harry "ATL" Smith's legs, retrieved the ball and shot a floater that missed but earned him a trip to the free-throw line. He finished with 9 points and 5 assists.

The game went back and forth with McIntosh hot from the field. He led the Warriors with 25 points.

The game broke open for Imago Dei in the fourth quarter.

The Warriors tied the score at 69-69 off a three by Cook but didn't score again, due to turnovers, for about five minutes.

Meanwhile, Imago poured on buckets. Collins took the lead with a layup. Conner followed with an And-one.

With 5:10 left on the clock, Imago led 80-69.

The Warriors called time-out.

"The Warriors are coming, but don't panic," Conner said in the huddle.

When play resumed, Smith stole the ball and went coast-to-coast to break the Warriors scoring drought, which made the score 80-71.

With 1:08 on the clock, Cook went to the rack and scored on two defenders to bring the Warriors within 8 at 88-80.

Time ran out before the Warriors could complete a comeback.

"We played good dee," Collins said. "They had as many turnovers as we did so that's helpful."

Conner noted that the Warriors, who play as many as 15 players in one game, need time to gel.

"They're not used to playing with each other; they're trying to figure out how to play together," Conner said. "We've been playing together for a long time so when we're down 10, we know what to do."

## Two college tennis teams visit SQ's Inside Tennis Team

By **Lloyd Payne**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Students from the University of Pacific Tigers Tennis program came into San Quentin for a second time to play the SQ Inside Tennis Team (ITT).

San Quentin's Earl Williams teamed up with Orlando Harris began the first match. They served the ball against the Pacific Tiger's Adi Kremer and Ryan Redondo.

"Easy bacon," Redondo said as Pacific sailed to a 4 to 2 victory.

Redondo is the Head Coach of Pacific Tiger's. He's played for U.C. Davis Junior Cup tennis team, won the world cup in Australia in 1998. Won World Championship in Junior World Tennis Cup in France in 2000 and the national doubles in college in 2001.

Swapping team members made the matches more interesting. Redondo teamed up with Inside Tennis member Tim Thompson against San Quentin's Paul "Black" Allenye and Danny Llarenas, an assistant coach for Pacific Tiger.

Alleyne and Llarenas played like tigers. Instead of running to return the ball they skipped. Instead of holding the racquets beside them they held them in front. Instead of standing with their knees locked straight they knees were bent as they hit the ball left and right of their opponents. They beat Redondo and Thompson, 4 to 3.

Redondo learned about ITT through his best friend Pablo Pires de Almeida, head coach at the University of San Francisco tennis program.

Pires de Almeida also brings his Team inside to play the men.

Redondo said he see improvement in the Inside Tennis Team players since the last time he visited.

"The curiosity and passion



Photo by courtesy of Pablo Pires de Almeida

The University of San Francisco team members outside of San Quentin State Prison

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

The University of San Francisco Tennis team loves returning to prison – not in handcuffs, but to visit with the San Quentin Inside Tennis Team.

"It's always good to come back and share with those who love the sport," USF tennis team player Paul Giraud of France said. It was his third time coming into San Quentin.

USF Coach Pablo Pires de Almeida has brought his team into the prison once or twice annually for over seven years. The visits consist of incarcerated men over 40 exchanging their experiences with college kids who share their skills.

"We share ideas," USF's Mert Zincirli, whose visited three times, said. "It's a good feeling and a good experience."

To make the games competitive, Inside Tennis Team members teamed up with

the USF players, except for ITT's Paul Oliver, (61 years old) and Earl Williams, (56). They tried to pit experience against USF players Giraud and Marco Barretto from Marin.

Barretto has been to San Quentin six times.

USF won the match 4-0. "We gave them a battle, old against the young," Oliver said. "The camaraderie with the youth and the ability to play with them is remarkable."

After the match, both teams were smiling and slapping hands.

ITT's Paul Alleyne from Los Angeles and USF's Johan Joenhagen from Sweden played against ITT's Orlando Harris from Oakland and USF's Zincirli of Turkey.

Both Joenhagen and Zincirli have been to San Quentin three times.

"I love this experience," said Joenhagen.

Joenhagen and Alleyne won the match 4-3.

"We had two match points but they capitalized," Zincirli said. "He (Joenhagen) hit a great lob on match point to set up an easy shot."

Ronnie Mohamed, who founded the Inside Tennis Team back in 2003, said he appreciates the college team visiting.

"They detoured their personal lives to come play with us," Mohamed said.

USF's Ryan Maker from Palm Springs, has been to San Quentin three times. He said, "It's a good experience over all. Hearing everybody's stories is humbling."

Suresh Eswaran, a USF volunteer assistant coach, wanted to see how people perceive time in prison and how it effects their mental health. He saw men who have served decades in prison using tennis to cope with their incarceration.

"You guys (ITT) adopt to your circumstances and live more happily than people on the outside," Joenhagen said.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQ News

University Pacific player

to learn I recognized first in the guys is still there," said Redondo.

ITT's Robert Neyses, 76, watched the games, wishing he could play.

He started playing tennis 13 years ago, while living in Fremont. Someone gave him a Wilson tennis racquet, and a local park had just built a new tennis court.

He decided to give it a swing, and had been playing the sport well. Once incarcerated, he continued playing at San Quentin until he blew out the retina of his right eye in a tennis match.

"One of my biggest troubles is seeing," he said while watching the last game where Llarenas and Ronnie Mohamed beat Adi Kremer (PT) and Robert Barnes (ITT), 4 to 3.

"I was on the court playing, and I couldn't see nothing but blood," Neyses said, "I went to the TA, they put

me under and operated on my eye, said I tore my retina."

While awaiting eye surgery, he took eye vitamins with beta-keratin to see and help his cataract.

"I use to be good at slaying at the net, but now I practice with guys who can slay and I play the back," he added.

After the last match up, Redondo suggested ITT all work on hitting drills together. Kremer and Llarenas caught and served the tennis ball on one side of the net. The men formed a hitting line on the other side of the net, and they practiced backhands, forehands, and volleys.

"I should go get some hits," Neyses said as he watched them practice hitting the ball. "But the camaraderie's nice, I like the camaraderie also."

The University of the Pacific Tigers said they'll return again in the Fall.



Photo by Jesse Vasquez, SQ News

Graduates with their sponsor and volunteers who helped them get ready for their promising futures

### Employment

Continued from Page 1

Many of the employers agreed.

"I've had some of the best interviews in here today than on the outside," said Maggie McVeigh of McCall's Catering. "I once had a lady show up to interview in a bathrobe."

The program also offered reentry information and services for the men.

Pastor Ronnie Muniz is formerly incarcerated. He served time in San Quentin in 1989 and paroled in 1995. He now works at two churches to provide reentry services. He helps the formerly incarcerated reconstruct their lives.

"I want you (guys) to have something to go back to," Muniz said. "I know the struggle." He said his churches "work with anyone incarcerated or at-risk."

Bart Pantoja, a business representative with District Council 16, Apprentice Program of Northern California, made his first appearance at PEC. His organization has attended several employment seminars at San Quentin. He said the event is great and has purpose.

"We try to recruit because

our industry needs more workers." They offer "union apprenticeships in drywall finishing, floor covering, glazing, highway striping and commercial & industrial painting," the District Council brochure states.

"I think I made some great connections," said inmate Harry "ATL" Smith, 31. "I met some good people. They really care about us and want to give us a second chance." Smith added that Pastor Muniz told him he has a job and a place for him to live through the church.

For inmates interested in self-employment, the non-profit Meda offered its Mission Economic Development Agency's information packet on starting a business, in addition to its Work Force Development Program.

Although attrition accounted for more than half of the original attendees dropping out, Williams acknowledged inmate Jayro Magana, 21, the one in the Youth Offender Program who made it to graduation. He was the youngest in the class to stick it out.

"I think you're going to go out there and do great," Williams said to Magana.

Inmate Aaron Tillis, 34, said, "I'm grateful, because I've never taken the time to have a formal interview." He

added that he was nervous but now he feels confident. He will parole in April 2020.

Several guests heard about the PEC program and came to observe. Malcolm Gissen was among them. This was his fourth visit to San Quentin.

"I'm so impressed by the people that are here. That's why I keep coming back," Gissen said. He added, "I've devoted my life to social action."

Gissen works with people coming out of prison and with the homeless. He teaches them about finances. He supports the program. "This (PEC) gives everyone hope."

Tom Lacey was another guest visitor. This was his first time attending the PEC event. He normally comes into San Quentin for the basketball games because his son plays on a team that competes with the inmate team. He said the purpose of his attendance was to understand what he can do to "marshal more resources" for PEC, which is a nonprofit.

A new aspect was added to this PEC session. Human resources professionals from Clif Bar & Company made their services available. Halfway through the course, these volunteers came inside the prison and worked with the men to write resumes and

do mock interviews to prepare them to meet employers.

"There's a lot in the world that's not going right," said Holly Streblow, who works in HR for Clif Bar. She said it can be overwhelming. "I could sit home and be frustrated by all the social problems or come here and work with people who will return to society and be better people."

Christina Gee, who also works in human resources for Clif Bar, said, "I'm impressed that Diana (Williams) has it dialed in. We're here to observe and be supportive. Clif Bar is supportive of employees giving their time to something they're passionate about."

During the graduation, Williams read interview assessments from employers and listened to feedback from the men before passing out certificates and a list of employers that hire ex-felons. She said that according to the employers' assessments, 100 percent of the graduates interviewed the same or better than people in outside society; another 87 percent did better than those outside.

"They (employers) seemed to go out of their way to make us feel comfortable," said inmate Maurice Brown.

Inmate Christopher Scull said, "I had a good time and

it was a great opportunity. I've been out of practice but I never forgot it," referring to his ability to interview and communicate with people in free society.

"I love this program," said Gabrielle Nicolet. "This is the highlight of my week. I'm sad that it's over until August." Nicolet is a former probation officer for juveniles in the state of Illinois. For the past few years she has helped facilitate PEC with activities such as grant writing.

Bre Davis, another PEC volunteer, said, "It gets better and better. This has become one of the things I look forward to after a busy day at work. We learn from them (inmates) as much as they learn from us." Davis has been volunteering with PEC for two and a half years, on and off. She previously worked with the California Reentry Program. She has experience working on reentry with men and women on probation in Alameda County.

Williams has been volunteering at San Quentin for four and a half years with California Reentry Institute and TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training). She is the executive director of PEC. She holds an M.A. in coun-

selling psychology and is a Certified Professional Co-active Coach.

"PEC showed me there really are people out there that want to give me a second chance," said inmate Eddie Herena, 35. The *San Quentin News* photographer was found suitable for parole in February. He credits Williams, Davis and Nicolet for making it possible and thanked them for the opportunity to be a part of the program.

An extended version of this story is available at [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com)

-By Kevin D. Sawyer



Photo by Jesse Vasquez, SQ News

David Rodriguez talking to Tom Lacey



Photo by Jesse Vasquez, SQ News

Graduates listens as they get ready for employers



Photo by Jesse Vasquez, SQ News

Prospect employees interviewing with potential employers