

# San Quentin News

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File Photo

Chrisfino Leal addressing guest in a forum

## Shorty Award Goes Behind Prison Walls

By Chris Schuhmacher  
VVGSQ Chairman

Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal recently joined a select and influential club, including the likes of people like Marlon Wayans,

Suze Orman and Neil Patrick Harris, just to name a few.

Leal and these celebrities are Shorty Award winners. But what sets Leal apart from most other

See *Shorty Award* on page 3

## San Quentin Welcomes The Amala Foundation

By San Quentin News Staff

A small organization traveled from Austin Texas to San Quentin State Prison to hold its third fundraiser aimed at ending violence against children around the world.

The Amala Foundation inspires the diverse youth of the world to live in unity, serve compassionately and lead peacefully. Its goal is to empower youth to lead and serve with a heart-cen-



Photo by Michael Nelson

Peace circle being formed on the Lower Yard

tered, global perspective, living in recognition that sustainable peace begins within.

Vanessa Stone founded the Amala Foundation 13 years ago. In addition to local youth

programs like the Global Youth Peace Summit, One Village Project, and Young Artists in Service, the Amala Foundation

See *Amala* on page 9

## Zoe Mullery Encourages Sharing Creative Stories

By Aly Tamboura  
Contributing Writer

For many prisoners, Wednesday is just another humdrum day behind bars spent missing the free life and their loved ones. However, for a small group of men, Wednesday evenings mean packing into a cramped Arts in Corrections room where long-time mentor and writing instructor Zoe Mullery encourages them to craft and share stories.

"My experience in prison is

the extreme circumstances, the under story of violence, anger, desperation, failure, shame, and oppression that pervades, provides a startling backdrop for the humor, thoughtfulness, respect, patience, and creativity I witness in my classroom," says Mullery.

Since 1999, she has been entering the prison gates under the sponsorship of the William James Foundation, which is one of the last foundations supporting prison artists.

"I think that art, which in my



Photo by Steve Emrick

Zoe Mullery

case means writing, but is true to any form, is not only valuable and important for incarcerated

See *Zoe Mullery* on page 7

## Gov. Brown Files New Prison Reduction Plan

By Boston Woodard  
Staff Writer

Governor Jerry Brown filed a new prison population reduction plan offering ways to decrease prisoners' sentences and modify the use of private prisons. It is his latest attempt to meet a court-ordered population cap for California's prisons.

The governor continues to fight an overcrowding ruling that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court May 2010. Brown filed his latest reduction plan after a federal three-judge panel threatened to hold him in contempt for not fully complying with the earlier order to lower California's prison population.

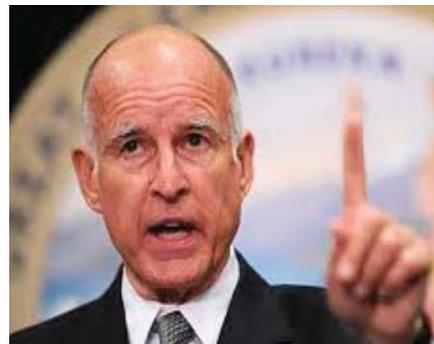
Last April 11 the U.S. district court ordered Brown to submit a plan to further reduce the prison

population by 10,000 inmates by the end of this year.

According to Brown, the State

"The State has spent well over a billion dollars to construct new health care facilities and additional treatment space in prisons throughout the State. Most significantly, a new \$840-million, 1,722-bed health care facility... opening in July."

Brown attained legislative approval for a wide-ranging



Official Photos

Governor Jerry Brown

has already reduced the number of prisoners by 42,000 since 2006.

prison plan that augments reha-

See *New Prison* on page 5

## Modified Three-Strike Law Releases Ex-Con

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

Armando Osuna is a perfect example of how the modified Three Strikes Law is working.

He's a free man today, but he admits that as a 20-year-old, he was a "knuckle head" who sold drugs in his community. He swears he never used the drugs he sold, but after his girlfriend broke up with him, he was heartbroken. He then turned to heroin.

At 37 he was arrested for possession of heroin for what he says was only a dime bag. He said it was just enough for the

district attorney to test.

He could not make the million-dollar bail placed on him, so for the next year and a half he waited in the county jail for his trial. It took two days for the jury to find him guilty. He was then sentenced under California's Three Strikes Law and sent to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to serve 25 years to life. Osuna said he could not believe he could receive such a long sentence for such a little amount of drugs.

He says he's not without fault,

See *Ex-con* on page 4

## Winners and Losers as Program Funds Shifted

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown's plan called Realignment is aimed at reducing prison overcrowding by redirecting low-level offenders away from state prisons and into county jails.

The plan leaves mostly high-risk offenders serving time in state prisons. Prison officials have shifted more of their resources into rehabilitative programs for one group of these high risk offenders.

However, the shift is bad news for another group of inmates: offenders serving life sentences in state prisons who are excluded from most of these programs. And it is exactly these programs that the parole board wants inmates to take in order to demonstrate insight into past bad behavior and a change from criminal to pro-social thinking.

Meeting the academic needs of non-lifers, inmates serving

See *Shift in Program* on page 4

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# 'Painted Ladies of San Quentin' Novel Debuts This Summer



**By Tommy Winfrey  
Contributing Writer**

*The Painted Ladies of San Quentin*, the latest graphic novel from artist Jason Lenox, is scheduled for release this summer in the anthology UGLI STUDIO PRESENTS #2.

San Quentin News was given an exclusive sneak peak of the graphic novel's manuscript, as well as an interview with Lenox.

The artwork of the new novel is visually stunning and includes several action scenes.

"It looked real," said Richard "Bonaru" Richardson, design editor of the San Quentin News. "It looks like something out of a video game."

The idea for the graphic novel came about when Lenox was asked to create artwork for a Western titled *The Sheriff's Whore Wanted Elijah Holman Dead*.

Although the colorist and writer originally involved both opted out, Lenox found a new team to help him complete the project which he has invested almost 700 hours into so far.

The story takes place on Point Quentin in 1850, two years before the building of the infamous prison.

A battle ensues between antagonist landowner Jessica Belmont and the hero, Elijah Holman.

The evil Belmont is in league with the corrupt sheriff of Point Quentin to sell the land to the state for a profit. Holman is the only man who stands in the way of her plan, so she hires a bunch of outlaws to kill him.

*The Painted Ladies of San Quentin* is full of drama, history and fantasy.

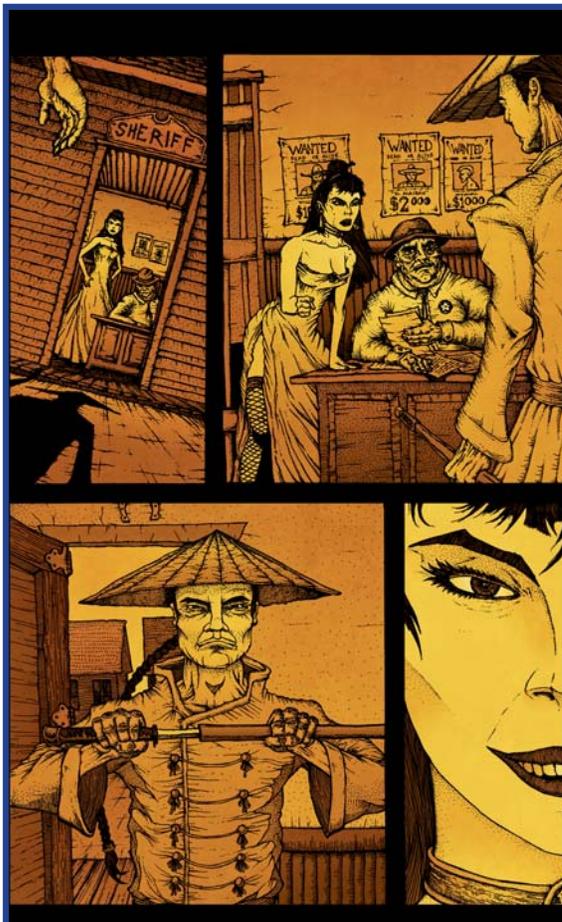
Lenox and co-writer Kevin Truglio capture the legend that is San Quentin, while adding their own twist to the story. All of the elements of early San Quentin are there – outlaws, women of the night and crooked officials.

Lenox said he had to learn the history of San Quentin as part of his creative process.

"(I) have a real appreciation and respect for what San Quentin was, is and will be to the men that serve their sentences there and the men and women that staff the facility," Lenox said after completing the research necessary to create *The Painted Ladies of San Quentin*.

Since Lenox lost his original collaborators for the graphic novel, his team has expanded to include Truglio, colorist Joe Freistuhler, Dave Sharp who did the lettering and David Urbanic, a filmmaker who is making a promotional trailer for the project.

"The ultimate goal has been to really make something that an inmate at SQ serving time would think is so cool it cuts glass and make them forget about the 24/7 grind they are living behind bars," Lenox said.



## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductible. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. To use a credit card, go to our website, www.sanquentinnews.com, click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed. The following groups and individuals have already made contributions:

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## BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from readers and community members.

# First Board Hearing Brings Good News

*JAMES HOUSTON'S ADVICE: 'FIND YOUR PURPOSE...WE ALL HAVE ONE'*

**By Phoeun You  
Design Editor**

One secret to winning parole is to work hard with rehabilitation programs, says James Houston.

In a rare case, he was found suitable for parole at his first board hearing after serving 17 years of an 18 years-to-life term for second-degree murder.

"I was arrested trying to prevent a woman from being robbed at gunpoint by an assailant," said Houston. "I took the gun from the assailant and shot him."

After being determined suitable for parole, Houston walked out the gates of San Quentin State Prison a free man on May 29.

Houston, the oldest of three children, was born in Illinois and relocated to Richmond, Calif. He says he was raised in an unstable home where he witnessed his father physically and emotionally abuse his mother.

Growing up he admits to having anger issues and experimented with alcohol to fill the void of a father figure that was missing at home. Houston eventually became a troubled teen and turned to the streets to fill that void. "I sold drugs because I wanted some power and control over my life," said Houston.

He left a 10-month-old son behind when he entered prison.

Reflecting back, he says he's saddened by not being able to raise his son and fears he is continuing a cycle of fatherless sons. Houston says, "I feel guilt and shame at the thought of my son being raised without a positive male role model."

After a difficult three year without any contact with his son, his family brought his son to visit him in prison. According to Houston, during the visit he witnessed his son crying. He vowed to do whatever it takes to get back home and reconnect with his son, James Houston Jr.

"I realized his life was a reflection of my life. I understand, now, how important it is for Junior to have me in his life," said Houston.

"James is a person who is God-fearing, humble, family-orientated, and gives good advice. The only problem is that

or, he often dedicated his time walking the yard counseling others through their problems.

"His presence and leadership in San Quentin will be missed. He has helped me get through hard times and I can't thank him enough for that," said inmate and friend who didn't want his name printed.

Houston has been involved with SQUIRES, a program that shows at-risk youths the reality of incarceration if they continue their destructive path. "He had a knack of disseminating information to kids in a way that they can understand. He always grasps their attention," said a fellow member of SQUIRES, Gary Scott.

He also facilitates programs like Victims Offender Education Group (VOEG) a program that helps educate offenders about the impact of their crime, thereby bringing healing to offenders and victims. Houston's co-facilitator, Nghiep "Ke" Lam, observed his ability to connect with others saying, "He's so compassionate, genuine, and gifted at what he does that I've witnessed a guy that has never opened up to anyone before open up and display his vulnerability."

Upon his release, he plans to open an after-school program called the Teen Tech Hub, which is supported by venture capitalist and Richmond native Erik Moore. "The Hub is a mentorship program, which teaches life skills to at-risk youth in Richmond," said Houston.

His advice to other lifers who are struggling towards freedom, "Find your purpose, because no matter where you're at, we all have one."



Photo by Sam Hearn

James Houston and Erik Moore at Last Mile Demo Day

he's a Forty-niner fan, and not a Dallas Cowboys fan!" said Troy Phillips, his cellmate for nearly two years.

While incarcerated, Houston developed many life skills. He achieved his AA degree with Patten University, and became a certified Crisis and Substance Abuse Counselor. As a counsel-

er, he often dedicated his time walking the yard counseling others through their problems. "I met him and worked with him in the education building back in 2003. He never seemed to have had a bad day. I admire his patience, humility, and it kept me grounded with his strong opinion and understanding," she added, "Go Houston!"

For the past nine years,

## Shorty Award Presented to Chrisfino Leal

*'What does the first day of a 5+ year prison sentence feel like?'*

*Continued from Page 1*

award winners is that he did it while incarcerated behind the walls of San Quentin State Prison.

***"Obviously, it's an honor and a privilege that still hasn't fully sunk in"***

The Shorty Awards honor the best in social media, while recognizing the people and organizations producing real-time short content across Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, YouTube, Foursquare and the rest of the social web. This year's Fifth Annual Shorty Awards took place on April 8 at Times Center in New York City.

Leal won his Shorty Award in the category of Quora Answer of the Year. Quora is a website that allows users to ask and answer questions spanning many of society's and social media's most intriguing topics.

He began writing responses to Quora questions through his participation in The Last Mile, a program designed to teach men about the world of entrepreneurship and social media - brought to San Quentin by Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti.

The question that earned Leal a Shorty Award was "What does the first day of a 5+ year prison sentence feel like?" His authentic and edgy response took readers inside the mind of a man just beginning his journey on a life sentence.

"I remember my first day because it was my worst day," Leal wrote in his response. "I walked upstairs to the cell where I'd spend the rest of the first day of a life sentence. I stepped inside and the sound of the cold steel door slamming behind me ricocheted around inside my skull, making me dizzy ... I thought about the times when I couldn't, woulda, shoulda, taken action to stop this nightmare from happening, but it was way too late."

Shorty Award winners were selected through millions of

tweeted nominations on their website. In addition to Quora Answer of the Year, categories included Real Time Photo of the Year, Foursquare Mayor of the Year and a Lifetime Achievement Award won by Conan O'Brian.

While Leal could not appear personally in NYC to accept his award, Parenti came to San Quentin and pre-taped his acceptance speech in the event that he would win. From there, she and Redlitz traveled to New York for the ceremony and accepted the award on his behalf.

"Obviously, it's an honor and a privilege that still hasn't fully sunk in," Leal said. "I'm grateful for any opportunity for the public to see that men in prison are not lost causes. We still have many redeemable qualities that are worthy of investing time and energy into."

Felicia Day hosted this year's Shorty Awards. For those who were not able to make it to New York, the live video stream can be viewed on ShortyAwards.com. Other winners include pop artists Justin Bieber and Demi Lo-



File Photo

Beverly Parenti and Chris Redlitz accepting the award

vato, actress Selena Gomez, the Pittsburgh Steelers and NASA.

Now that he has won a Shorty Award, Leal said the next items on his agenda is being released from prison and beginning a new chapter in his life.

He also plans to continue working with The Last Mile and help ensure that graduates of the program have opportunities waiting for them upon

their release.

"The Last Mile truly is a fraternity of dynamic men and women committed to transformation, empowerment and success in life after prison," Leal said.

To learn more about the men of The Last Mile, go to [thelastmile.org](http://thelastmile.org). To read Leal's Shorty Award-winning response in its entirety, go to <http://www.quora.com/The-Last-Mile-Training-Program>.

# Many Three-Strikers Await Help From Proposition 36

By Tommy Winfrey  
Contributing Writer

Despite the revised 2013-2014 state budget adding \$100 million to the prison budget of \$9 billion, millions of dollars are being spent on the incarceration of Three Strikers who meet the criteria for release under Proposition 36 but are not re-sentenced and released.

Proposition 36, passed in Nov. 2012. It was touted as an aid in reducing the state's prison population, according to its proponents.

Seven months later, 16 percent of the estimated 2,847 Three Strikers have been resentenced by the courts, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

However, even when a prisoner is resentenced, release is not immediate.

Todd Burke, 45, convicted of possession of drugs and a knife, was resentenced in Shasta County on April 10.

Burke's sentence was reduced from 25 to life to six years and nine months. Under his reduced sentence, he has served more than enough time in prison; however,

he had to wait until May 31 to be released.

The 51 days Burke stayed behind bars after resentencing costs taxpayers approximately \$6,600.

He said his mother has dementia.

"My mom is sick in the hospital and she has nobody but me," Burke said. "I'm trying to get home to her."

Burke said he's worried that he's been in custody so long his mother won't recognize him when he's finally at home.

On average, the annually incarceration cost for a prisoner is \$46,600 or \$3,880 per month, according CDCR. However, because Three Strikers are part of an aging population, they have higher medical expenses, which inflate their incarceration cost, according to an ACLU study called The Mass Incarceration of the Elderly.

According to CDCR numbers, 2,445 eligible Three Strikers have yet to be resentenced. It cost taxpayers an estimated \$9.5 million per month to keep these offenders behind bars. Under this cost analysis, if the resentencing and release process was completed seven months ago, the state could have saved more than \$66 million.

The bottleneck in releasing qualified Three Strikers is costing the state more than money.

The state's prison system is currently under a federal court order to reduce prison overcrowding and according to several experts, stuck at about 9,000 over the court imposed inmate population cap of 110,000. (See CDCR Population Cap on page 12.)

If all the eligible Three Strikers were released it would bring this number down by almost a third.

Out of California's 50 counties where offenders are eligible for resentencing, 23 of them have not resentenced a single offender, according to CDCR statistics.

San Mateo County has 20 Three Strikers who qualify for resentencing, but none has been resentenced so far.

Los Angeles County has by far the highest number of offenders who qualify for resentencing at 1,029, but only 62 have been resentenced. At this pace, it would take Los Angeles County more than eight years to resentence everyone who qualifies.

The only county to resentence all of the Three Strikers who qualify under its jurisdiction is Contra Costa County.

## Shift in Program Funds Benefits Non-Lifer Prison Inmates

Continued from Page 1

long determinate sentences, is the focus of the shifting priorities, according to a PowerPoint presentation presented by Elizabeth Siggins, Senior Advisor for Rehabilitative Programs. Priority is given to this group of inmates' need for academic achievements with the goal of obtaining a GED, or to enroll in college.

### TOWN HALL EVENT

Prompt admittance into re-entry programs "within the last year prior to release" is a main concern of the plan, ac-

ording to the presentation. "The programs are designed to meet 70 percent of the state's inmates who need substance abuse treatment, anger management and job training," said official spokesman for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Bill Sessa.

Sessa attended a town hall meeting in Oakland, last year to address some of the public concerns about the impact of Realignment on local communities.

"The goal is to provide the skills that will keep felons who spent decades in prison from re-offending," Sessa

told KQED reporter Michael Montgomery.

*"Re-entry hubs will be established at designated prisons"*

"Because we'll only have serious offenders with longer sentences, we know they'll be able to go into a rehabilitation program at the beginning—stay through it until

the end and then there'll be something waiting for them when they go out on parole," Sessa said.

Inmates leaving prison will also be able to "obtain job readiness skills and a valid California identification card," according to the PowerPoint presentation.

The PowerPoint presentation also stated that re-entry hubs "will be established at designated prisons to help inmates transition to the community within their last four years of incarceration." In addition, the plan is geared to provide post-release substance abuse treatment, post-release employment

programs, and post-release education services for parolees.

These programs will offer "the greatest opportunity for success in reducing recidivism and increasing public safety," the PowerPoint presentation asserts.

Referring to whom the programs are targeting, Stanford law professor and criminologist, Joan Petersilla said, "Most of the models have never been applied to the serious offenders that we're going to try to apply them to." Realignment is an experiment—the public and prison officials should be aware of this fact, Petersilla concluded.

## Ex-Con Released From Prison Under The Modified Three-Strikes Law

Continued from Page 1

but feels that this law "was designed to punish the poor."

His two priors were for robbery and burglary. He said he did the crimes to support his drug habit.

Osuna started his time at the California Men's Colony, where he spent five months in The Hole. From there he was transferred to Salinas Valley State Prison where he spent the next five years in a lockdown environment. He says

they accidentally sent him to Solano State Prison, where he sat in limbo for three months until they realized that he was supposed to be in Soledad, where he spent the next five years.

Ten years after his incarceration, Osuna received notice that his father, who had so much hope to see him released, had passed away. Osuna cherished his visits with his father. After his father's death, he picked up three write-ups for mutual combat. "I was always

in survival mode," he said.

Things really took a turn for the better at his next stop, San Quentin. He says all he wanted to do was educate himself. He still had hope he would some day be released and when that happened, he wanted to be prepared to set a good example for his peers.

He was an active participant in the at-risk kids program, SQUIRES, because he wanted to show the youngsters that they had a choice to go in the right direction instead of the direction he went.

After spending 14 years in prison, Osuna says he was given hope when California voters passed Proposition 36 to amend the Three Strike Law.

Osuna was surprised when his daughter contacted a private attorney to assist with his release after the passage of Proposition 36. He proudly says he has six grandkids who were born since his incarceration, that he doesn't know them and he wants to spend time with them.

"Everyday will be precious with them now. It won't be the



Photo by Lt. Luna

### Armando Osuna in front of the Education Building

15-minute phone calls, but the human touch that has been missing," he said.

Osuna had a drug problem like many other men in state prisons. For the last 14 years, taxpayers spent approximately \$450,000 to keep him incarcerated; instead they could have spent about \$20,000 to send him to two years of drug treatment. With the saved money, nine school teachers could have been hired.

With the passage of Proposition 36, some "three strikers"

like Armando Osuna can finally stop spending time in prison for non-violent crimes. Osuna was finally released in April.

He says, "There is still a lot of work to be done to get many of the other three strikers out who are just taking up space and wasting millions of dollars that could be spent on drug treatment."

About 25 percent of all people serving time in U.S. prisons and jails have drug convictions, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.



Photo by Lt. Luna

SQUIRES members Alladin Pangilinan, Nou Thao and Armando Osuna

# Defiant Gov. Brown Looks To The U.S. Supreme Court

By San Quentin News Staff

Gov. Jerry Brown has once again gone to the U.S. Supreme Court in an attempt to end federal oversight of the state's prison system. However, the three-judge panel that established the federal oversight stated he has little chance of success.

The state cannot "challenge the legal conclusions on which a prior judgment or order" was made, the judges' April 11 decision stated.

The judges noted the state already had exercised its right to challenge the three-judge panel's conclusion that overcrowding was the primary cause of California's unconstitutional prison conditions. The conditions prompted the court to establish an inmate population cap of 137.5 percent of designed capacity.

The state "appealed the 137.5

percent figure to the (U.S.) Supreme Court, and the court affirmed our conclusion." The state "already lost this argument and they should not be allowed to litigate it once again," the court stated.

The judges also criticized the state for changing its argument to the three-judge panel.

In 2009, the state alleged the prison overcrowding at approximately 190 percent of designed capacity was not unconstitutional. In its latest filings to the three judges, the state claimed that because it had greatly reduced the prison population, overcrowding is no longer the primary barrier to providing constitutionally adequate medical and mental health care to the prisoners.

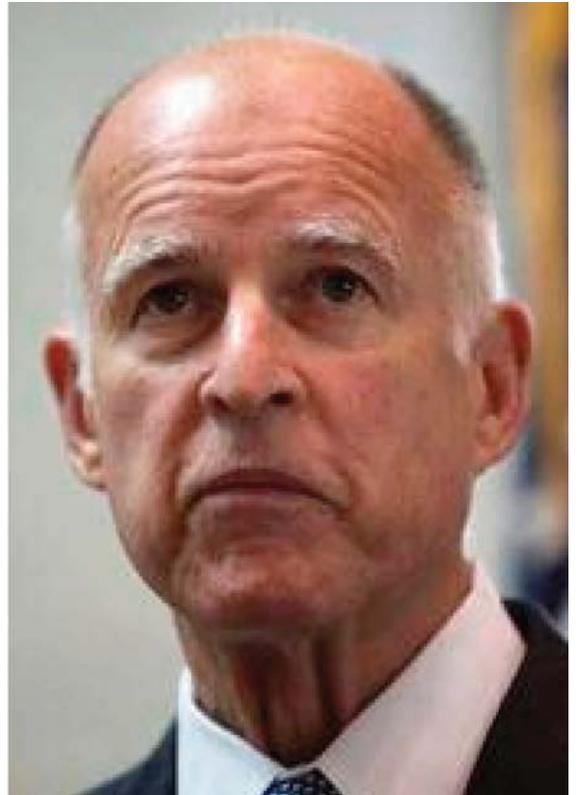
The three judges determined that changing the argument amounted to an attempt to "re-litigate the 137.5 percent population cap."

Moreover, the court found the state failed to demonstrate a long-lasting solution to prison overcrowding by announcing a plan to bring back to California approximately 8,300 prisoners housed in Arizona, Mississippi, and Oklahoma.

Bringing the out-of-state prisoners back would further increase California's institutional prison population beyond designed capacity, the court found.

The judges noted that the state continued to suffer severe staffing shortages, insufficient treatment space, and a lack of beds for mentally ill prisoners, and cited that the state's high rate of suicides is related to current overcrowding.

A release of comparatively low-risk prisoners slightly earlier than they would otherwise have been released would have "no adverse effects on public safety," the judges concluded.



Official Photo

Gov. Jerry Brown

## New Prison Reduction Plan Heads to Legislature

Continued from Page 1

bilitation efforts and locks in funding for multiple "construction upgrades" to existing prison health care facilities.

Under his leadership, the state passed and put into action Public Safety Realignment, shifting low-level offenders and parole violators to county jails rather than state prisons. When Proposition 30 was passed last November, voters amended the state's constitution to guarantee funding for Realignment.

Brown's plan asserts, "Due to realignment and the work of many local leaders and state officials to execute it, the prison population lowered by about 25,000 inmates in just over a year." However, Brown contends if he continues on this path, further reduction could jeopardize public safety.

"Now is absolutely not the time to impose further obligations on already strained counties," he said.

### STATE'S PLAN

The state's plan attempts to meet the court orders by outlining some progress on meeting the population cap, requesting for a modification and relaxing federal control over the mental health delivery system.

Some of the alternative actions in the state's plan include:

Augmenting existing "good time" credits to qualifying prisoners, including second-strike prisoners with serious prior convictions.

Early release of some elderly and infirm prisoners who are considered incapable of re-offending.

Allowing prisoner firefighter teams to include certain serious and violent prisoners.

Enhancing the use of facilities for drug treatment.

Funding county jails to house more state prisoners, and perhaps utilizing more private prisons in California.

Allowing the approximately 8,300 prisoners in out-of-state private prisons to remain there longer, at a cost of about \$300 million annually.

Making more room for nearly 2,000 ailing and mentally ill prisoners after the new \$840 million medical facility opens this year in San Joaquin County.

Early release credits for some prisoners and the release of elderly and infirm prisoners would allow the state to gradually bring back thousands of prisoners from private prisons in other states, according to the Brown plan.

One viable solution to lower the prison population rejected by Brown is the release of "low risk" life prisoners with the possibility of parole. The courts have suggested that the state could release eligible convicted felons sentenced to life with the possibility of parole without jeopardizing public safety.

Expert forensic psychologist James Austin in a declaration to the federal court estimated that "3,930 prisoners in this category could be released within four months of implementation."

According to *Life In Limbo: An Examination of Parole Release for Prisoners Serving Life Sentences with the Possibility of Parole in California*, a study released by Stanford Law

School (Stanford Criminal Justice Center): "Studies that were conducted documenting the recidivism rates for lifers suggest that the recidivism rate—as defined by recommitment for a new offense—is relatively low."

### LIFER PAROLEES

In CDCR's *Lifer Parolee Recidivism Report January 2013*, examination of lifer parolee recidivism rates shows that "lifer parolees receive fewer new convictions within three years of being released to parole (4.8 vs. 51.5 percent, respectively). They also have a markedly lower return to prison recidivism rate than non-lifer parolees (13.3 vs. 65.1 percent, respectively)."

Nonetheless, Brown insists that releasing the lifers who fit the low-risk criteria, "circumvents the carefully considered risk determinations of the Board of Parole Hearings," and violates the constitutional rights of crime victims to be heard in parole proceedings.

Brown's plan asserts that Austin's estimate that 96 percent of eligible life prisoners are low risk is "simply wrong," and that Austin's low recidivism rates of lifer prisoners who were released were based on prisoners already deemed by a Board of Parole Hearings panel to "no longer pose an unreasonable risk to public safety."

Brown argues that, "since the vast majority of lifers currently eligible for parole consideration have been denied parole by a Board panel following extensive review and hearing, the evidence and indeed logic would dictate that most of these

inmates continue to pose an unreasonable risk." As a result, recidivism rates of these prisoners "can be expected to be higher if they were released."

The governor never addressed *Life In Limbo* study, which revealed "in a cohort of convicted murderers released since 1995 in California, the actual recidivism rate is in fact miniscule." The study showed that among the 860 murderers paroled by the Board since 1995, "only five individuals have returned to jail or returned to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for new felonies since released, and none of them recidivated for life-term crimes." This figure represents less than one percent overall for released lifers.

Though Brown touts the fairness of parole board decisions, the courts have overturned many decisions by the Board of Parole Hearings, deeming its denials of parole either: unlawful, not applicable, or simply wrong in numerous cases. The governor did not address the Parole Board's record of having its decisions overturned.

### COURT OF APPEALS

According to an April 2013 ruling, the California Court of Appeals found that immutable facts, such as a prisoner's criminal history, does not by itself demonstrate an unreasonable risk to public safety. Thus, the sole evidence (in Brown's plan) supporting his claim that lifers denied a parole "pose an unreasonable risk to public safety" stands in opposition to the findings of the Court of Appeals.

The federal court has ordered Brown to submit a list of "all

prison population measures" talked about in the Plata lawsuit.

The court further directed Brown to list the "measures in the order that [the State] would prefer to implement them." The governor's plan points out that the court order disregards whether or not the governor has the requisite authority to do so.

As a response, Brown said he would take the unusual step of drafting legislative language for the measures he supports, and would submit the language to the Legislature for its consideration. Once the draft language has been submitted, the Legislature would determine whether the language should be introduced as a bill and advanced through the legislative process.

Brown contends that if the Legislature immediately passes the measures he advocates as urgency legislation, and does not pass any other measures to shift prisoners back to the state, then by the end of the year, the State will come within 2,570 inmates (within 2.2%) of satisfying the court-ordered population target, and will fully satisfy the court-ordered target in June 2014. And, with these measures in place, the state prison population would continue to recede over the next several years, the governor said.

Brown is convinced that no further population reductions—beyond the measures advocated by his plan—are necessary. Touting the improvements in the State's prison health care system, realignment, and implementation of Prop. 36, he said he expected the prison population to continue to decline.

# 'The Merchant of Venice' Takes Center Stage

'I cannot believe we're in a state institution. This is way too professional'

By San Quentin News Staff

The San Quentin Protestant Chapel was transformed into a Shakespeare stage with inmates and free volunteer actors before an audience of about 300 prisoners and free people for the performance of *The Merchant of Venice*.

"These men show Shakespeare matters to the way they're living. It really matters," said Sean Keilen. "I expected to be moved by the performance, and I was. The level of honesty was impressive." I cannot believe we're in a state institution. This is way too professional."

Keilen and Michael Warren teach Shakespearean theater in their community of Santa Cruz. It was their first time inside a prison. "The theme of understanding the law and forgiveness really matters here," said Warren.

Marin Shakespeare Company has sponsored San Quentin's drama club for about six years, producing six Shakespearean plays.

Director Suraya Keating's program notes describe *The Merchant of Venice* as one of Shakespeare's "powerful dark comedies." She wrote, "It raises themes of hatred" along with "different perspectives, love, greed and forgiveness in a way that takes us to the very core of our hearts."

"What if we chose to live in a world where our differences were celebrated and valued rather than despised--where different perspectives were considered a sign of the beautiful diversity and multi-faceted intelligence of human beings?" Keating wrote.

Keating challenged the audience to "reflect and ask yourself: 'How does living from a place of love, generosity and forgiveness change your life?'"

Picking up from his last performance of Hamlet, thespian

Julian Glenn "Luke" Padgett exhibited a unique style of character development for Shylock, the

He is scheduled for parole in 2014.

He said he's been clean 17

tor; however, I'm turning creation into reality," said actor John Neblett.

Kimani Randall said, "It has given me the ability to dream again."

"Playing Shylock made me think about what it means

to be both Jewish and African-American. The roles were challenging and rewarding. It was nice to read what the *Marin Independent Journal* wrote," said Padgett.

Warden Kevin Chappell attended the play.

Marin Shakespeare Company filmed the performance. The local newspaper coverage can be viewed at: [http://www.marini.com/sanrafael/ci\\_23320067/san-quentin-prisoners-perform-shakespeare-play-about-mercy](http://www.marini.com/sanrafael/ci_23320067/san-quentin-prisoners-perform-shakespeare-play-about-mercy).

The cast:

Joey Mason – Salerio, a Christian Venetian, friend of Bassanio

Juan Meza – Salanio, a Christian Venetian, friend of Antonio

John Neblett – Antonio, a wealthy Christian merchant with many trading ships



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Tristan Jones, Joey Mason, Maverick Harrison, Julian Glenn Padgett, Alex Goldsmith, John Neblett, Carlos Meza, Eric Lowery and Joey Barnes

Jewish moneylender.

The audience was not disappointed by Padgett's grandiose



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Triston Jones and Amelia Calhoun Kriss

performance that evoked laughter, sadness, condemnation, and sympathy for Shylock.

Padgett is a life-term prisoner, incarcerated since 1995 for first-degree murder, arson, car theft and burglary. He has been with San Quentin's drama club since 2006.

Incorporated into the prisoners' interpretation of *The Merchant of Venice* were, a dice game, Gospel signer Kirk Franklin's "Brighter Day" and Rod Steward's "Tonight's the Night," with an audience sing-along.

Prisoner Steve McAlister, 56, said he saw his first play while incarcerated at San Quentin. "Everything I hear today was wonderful. When I go home next year, I look forward to going to plays with my grandchildren."

McAlister has been imprisoned since 1996.

years and regularly attends Narcotics Anonymous, Victims Offender Education Group, Addiction Recovery Counseling, and other pro-social/self-help programs that would help him be a law-abiding citizen. He said he will parole to a transitional housing and has the full support of his family and community.

Noah Wright, 41, who is a life-term prisoner, said he transferred from Vacaville to San Quentin about seven months ago.

Wright said he enjoys Shakespearean plays. He said he seen *A Midnight Summer's Dream*, and *Macbeth*. This was the first time he's seen *The Merchant of Venice*.

He said, since being at San Quentin, he's enrolled into several self-help groups, college, and the drama classes. "I enjoyed getting over stage fright and getting out of my shell."

A community member in the audience said, "You guys inspire me." She looked tearfully at the actors and said, "We have to spread the word about these guys who cannot speak for themselves that we need Arts in Corrections as a form of rehabilitation."

The actors expressed to the audience what performing in drama brings to their lives.

"It gives me the chance to be transparent and honest," said actor Joey Mason.

Actor Carlos Meza said, "We're valuable human beings," which brought a standing ovation.

"I grew up an actor, a bad ac-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Rodney Capell and Kim Moody showing their unique talent

Portia's steward

Julian Glenn Padgett – Shylock, a wealthy Jew in Venice who lends money for interest

Nythell "Nate" Collins –



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Angelo Falcone Dancing

Prince of Morocco, a suitor to Portia

Tristan Jones – Lancelot Gobbo, Shylock's servant (later Bassanio's servant)

Joey Barnes – Old Gobbo, Lancelot's father, a blind old man

Amelia Calhoun Kriss – Jessica, Shylock's daughter

Angelo Falcone – Prince of Aragon, a suitor to Portia

Tristan Jones – Prince of Aragon's attendant

John Neblett – Prince of Aragon's attendant

Nythell "Nate" Collins – Tubal, friend to Shylock, also a Jew

Joey Barnes – A jailer

Angelo Falcone – Duke of Venice

Wayne Villafranco – Drums

Lemar "Maverick" Harrison – Gratiano, a follower of Bassiano in love with Nerissa

Joey Mason – Guitar



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Kim Moody and Alex Goldsmith

Rodney "R.C." Capell – Bassanio, a Christian Venetian, in love with Portia

Kimani Randall – Lorenzo, a Christian Venetian, in love with the Jewess Jessica

Kim Moody – Portia, a rich heiress who lives in Belmont (a sea voyage from Venice)

Alex Goldsmith – Nerissa, Portia's lady-in-waiting

Eric Lowery – Stephano,



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Carlos Meza and Joey Mason putting on a show for the crowd



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Julian Glenn Padgett shocking the audience with his performance

# A Counselor's Advice as to Why It's Important To Treat Prisoners' Substance Abuse Problems

By Robert Faltisco  
Contributing Writer

Thomas Gorham is a licensed marriage and family therapist and a certified alcohol and drug counselor who has been working with prisoners in San Quentin State Prison for the past 12 years. He sat down for an interview to explain the importance of treating prisoners for substance abuse. Here is some of what he said:

## How would you describe San Quentin's Addiction Recovery Counseling (ARC) program?

We provide in-prison drug and alcohol treatment using science-based methods. Science-based methods are evidence-based techniques, proven at changing criminal and addictive "acting out" behaviors. We encourage clients to utilize proven Twelve Step recovery and provide extensive addiction-oriented education classes as a way of helping clients see another way of looking at the world. We help them avoid obstacles to successful re-entry.

## What problems do you see within the prisoner and parolee population?

Many clients are caught up in a set of behaviors repeated over and over that produce negative consequences in their lives. We provide professionally trained counselors to help them look at the world in another way, which helps them live better, happier lives. So many clients have family of origin trauma, which affects their adult lives. This pain needs to be addressed instead of avoided. A thoughtful moment allows a chance for healthier decisions. Unhealthy choices have negatively affected most of our clients, which is why prisons like San Quentin are so crowded. Many people are really stuck in this pattern.

## What causes change in your clients?

Change doesn't happen by accident. Some have had enough – they're doing time because of past behavior. Very few people want to come back to prison, and we know addiction is what keeps bringing them back. The

statistics and studies back this up. California's recidivism rate is about 70 percent during the first three years after being released. So often, it is drug- and alcohol-abuse and criminal thinking that bring them back. The numbers are staggering.

## What motivates you to volunteer your time and energy to inmates in ARC?

I fell into this field by accident. I was incarcerated as a result of my alcoholism. I was a chronic, hopeless alcoholic. A Berkeley judge and a few caring people in drug court helped me turn my life around. My recovery finally stuck after wasting 10 to 12 years in active use, and after two or three attempts at treatment (about the average for most addicts to finally "get it"). I hit bottom in my 40s and spent 11 years living under highways, in empty lots, houses, and abandoned cars, too drunk to care. Beaten and abused, arrested and alone, I know the pain of addiction. So, I now put an equal amount of energy into my recovery. That means educat-

ing myself and helping others, including the often forgotten men and women in prison. In a few hundred alcohol-related court appearances, nobody offered me treatment until it was almost too late. Don't get me wrong; incarceration is good if it keeps people safe, especially from themselves, but addiction is a health problem, and if treatment is not offered in combination with jail time, that is a crime in and of itself. If we as a society could understand this simple concept, we would not be suffering with overcrowded prisons and recidivism at 70 percent. It is tragic.

## What's your biggest challenge keeping the program alive?

I hope the San Quentin administrators will continue their support of the ARC program. Options Recovery Services will do its part. Recently, CDCR decided to cancel all SAP programs in northern California prisons, so ARC may be the last program to provide addiction treatment in this

half of the state! San Quentin's ARC is a model that's working and helping lower the state's high recidivism rate -- one of the worst in the country. Our program is evidence-based, uses proven methods, and is highly successful.

It seems only logical to keep it going.

Despite short-term budget problems, we need to be thinking of long-term solutions. The best way to reduce overcrowding in jails and prisons is to provide addicts with treatment inside prisons, and aftercare to help them re-build their lives. That will lower costs and improve lives for the long run. Nobody wants to come to prison, but addicts are powerless without the kind of intervention and programs Options and ARC provide. We all need helpers along the way. ARC provides professionally trained and certified counselors who help people rebuild their lives. I'm here to stay, and so is ARC if I can help it.

For more information visit [www.optionrecovery.org](http://www.optionrecovery.org)

## Zoe Mullery Expresses Her Passion About Writing Stories

Continued from Page 1

men but for human beings in general," says Mullery.

Mullery says she always wanted to be a writer since writing her first book, *Willie the Whale*, in second grade. As a child, she suffered from insomnia, staying awake in bed, writing stories in her head on a "mental note pad."

As an adult, she lived in a cabin in the California woods with aspirations of crafting a novel. After four frustrating years, she enrolled in a Creative Writing Program at San Francisco State and graduated with a MFA in 1995.

Since graduating, Mullery has written many short stories, a few being published. In addition, she has written her first novel, which she frustratingly admits is stuck in its first draft because her life has become increasingly busy.

Mullery's life changed in 2010 when she adopted her daughter and from her tireless commitment to raising funds to build a school in the African Country of South Sudan – a project she started after meeting, Michael Kuany, one of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan at the church she attends.

The Lost Boys (so named after the boys in the story of Peter Pan, who lost their parents and raised themselves) are a group of over 30,000 Sudanese boys who were displaced by war in the South of Sudan.

The boys walked hundreds

of miles to refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya to flee the violence. Along the way, as many as 16,000 perished from starvation, disease and being attacked by wild animals.

In 2007 Mullery traveled to South Sudan, which has been ravished by decades of civil war.

"Of course there were no schools, and the children told us frequently and passionately how much they wanted to go to school," explained Mullery on her visit to Sudan "Young orphan boys slipped notes to us asking us to take them back to the U.S. so they could be educated and understand how to stop wars."

The children's pleas inspired a friend, Kuany, to build a school for the children of his home country. "He founded a non-profit organization called Rebuild Sudan ([rebuildsudan.org](http://rebuildsudan.org)) and asked me to be on the board," says Mullery.

After six years the organization has raised over \$170,000 and has the school half built.

"We still have quite a bit of money to raise," says Mullery. "Perhaps another \$120,000, but seeing the frame against the skyline has lifted the spirits of the community as well as those working towards the school's completion."

Several years ago, Mullery brought Lost Boy Kuany to visit her San Quentin Creative Writing Class, where he told the prisoners about his harrowing story of survival and triumph.

So inspiring was Kuany's

story, one of Mullery's students, Julian Glenn "Luke" Padgett, wrote a fictional narrative set in war-torn Sudan, which was subsequently published in an anthology of short stories called *Brothers in Pen* created by the San Quentin Creative Writing Class.

Mullery has been helping undeserved writers publish their work for many years, including 15 anthologies at Delaney Street, a drug treatment program in San Francisco, two at Northern California Woman's

Facility in Stockton and six at San Quentin.

Currently the men in Mullery's creative writing class are preparing for a public reading of their work. It will be held on July 13 in the Addiction Recovery Counseling building.

"What stories we live by, feed ourselves, create and give power to are essential to our identity and therefore our relationship to what our lives mean and what others' lives mean to us," says Mullery. "This is not special to

prisoners. However, I do find it particularly poignant to engage stories with prisoners as prisoners are often people who have lived by stories which have hurt others and are often people who have been hurt by the stories others live out or believe about them."

Creative Writing Class anthologies can be checked out at the San Quentin library or purchased at [lulu.com/spotlight/northblockpress](http://lulu.com/spotlight/northblockpress) or at [brothersinpen.wordpress.com](http://brothersinpen.wordpress.com).



Photo by Jill Kurtz

People of the village Jalle, South Sudan, standing under the frame of the school they are building

By Arnulfo Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

This is our five-year anniversary for resurrection of the *San Quentin News* and we have accomplished a lot, despite numerous hurdles. We started back in the prison's Print Shop in 2008, but in 2010, the Print Shop was shut down because of budget cuts; it took us four months to reorganize and print the next newspaper.

We moved to the Education Building, where we were squeezed into a small office and only two of the four staff members were allowed to work at the same time. Despite the setback and two more relocations, we moved forward and raised money to continue to run the newspaper with an 11-member staff, and print it at our expense outside the prison, and work in a newly remodeled newsroom.

For all of you who donated money, we thank you, because we couldn't have done it without you. Today we are proud to say that the Columbia Foundation has given us \$68,000 for two years of monthly, 16-page papers with color photos. As always, we have more to say and still need your contributions. With continued public financial help, we will aim to continue publishing and add four more pages.

The mission of *San Quentin*

is to create a more informed prisoner and public by covering criminal justice policy and events at San Quentin State Prison and elsewhere. The newspaper provides prisoners with a deeper understanding of events directly affecting their daily lives, promotes self-help and empowerment. These goals address the needs of policymakers, the public, victims of crime, and offenders for specific information about fundamental causes of mass incarceration in America.

California hosts the second largest prison population in the country. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that being incarcerated in a California prison amounts to "cruel and unusual punishment" due to severe overcrowding and deplorable medical care. Furthermore, the penal system makes it difficult for prisoners to turn their lives around, reunite with their families, and become productive members of society.

Through the power of journalism, the *San Quentin News* addresses these problems from a uniquely visceral understanding of the criminal justice system.



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo Garcia

Its content informs and enlightens everyone affected by the prison system, from inmates to politicians. The goal is to point everyone to a better way of handling crime and punishment.

Through the power of journalism, the *San Quentin News* addresses these problems from a uniquely visceral understanding of the criminal justice system.

Giving a voice to the incarcerated reveals the humanity of prisoners, painting a human face on crime and punishment by narrating tales of triumphs and bravery among society's pariahs. In doing so, the *San Quentin News* will challenge beliefs about criminals, shape ideas about justice, and inspire calls to action to reduce the nation's over-reliance on incarceration.

The *San Quentin News* also inspires incarcerated men and women. In prison, knowledge about criminal justice policy is churned through the rumor mill and often distorted by gang members and ill-spirited members of the powerful prison guards union.

Information about opportunities for rehabilitation and education is also disseminated through the same flawed system. As a result, prisoners are often unaware of self-help options and eventually return to society unchanged and more

likely to return to criminal activity. This is evident because California has one of the highest recidivism rates in the country.

By scrutinizing and reporting on criminal justice news, as well as rehabilitation programs and positive examples behind the walls of San Quentin, prisoners will be empowered to make better decisions about how to serve their time. This will steer prisoners toward paths more likely to lead to successful reintegration back to his or her family and society after incarceration.

We are proud of the progress we have made in the past five years, and we hope to improve the newspaper and the prison system in the years ahead.

We currently send 200 copies to 13 of California's 32 other prison libraries. We invite other prison librarians to request a similar distribution to their facility. Our concern is simply to ensure that the prisoners will be able to read the newspaper.

Significant credit for what we are goes to our volunteer, professional advisers: John Eagan, Steve McNamara, Joan Lisetor, Linda Xiques and Facebook adviser Lizzie Buchen. We also are indebted to University of California at Berkeley Professor William Drummond and the Cal students he brings in to work with the newspaper writers and editors.

**1. IOWA CITY, Iowa**—Rasberry Williams, 67 is being given a chance at freedom after serving 38 years of a life sentence for killing his neighbor. In a rare move, Gov. Terry Branstad commuted his sentence because of an "extraordinary record" behind bars and the support the victim's family, a prosecutor, prison officials, and fellow prisoners, according to *The Associated Press*.

**2. ARIZONA**—Education classes are mandatory in the state's prison system, report state officials. All 12 of the state's prisons will be using computer software created to teach adult learners how to improve their basic reading skills.

**3. FRANKLIN, N.H.**—Prisoners are showing their furniture-making skills in a new gallery, named Corrections Creations. The exhibit features solid wood furniture, baskets, woodwork and paintings titled Behind the Walls Craft Exhibition. The prisoners pay for their wood, tools, and other supplies.

**4. TALLAHASSEE, Fla.**—One of the first acts Republican Gov. Rick Scott did after taking office in 2011 was to undo the automatic restoration of voting rights for non-violent ex-offenders, according to *The Associated Press*. As a result, the restoration of voting rights for former felons have slowed significantly, compared to previous years.

**5. PORTLAND, Ore.**—A federal judge ruled limiting prisoners' mail to postcards is unconstitutional. The ruling may affect jails across the country, according to *The Associated Press*.

**6. CHICAGO**—Ten young-



sters awaiting trial in county jail on charges ranging from dealing drugs to murder participated in a concert with six orchestra members of The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, reports *The Associated Press*. The concert feature compositions written by the youngsters in collaboration with the professionals.

**7. CHEYENNE, Wyo.**—Andrew J. Johnson, 63 was the first person in the state to have the chance to use DNA testing to prove he is innocent of raping a woman 23 years ago. The DNA matched the victim's fiancé at the time.

**8. INDIANAPOLIS**—The

state Legislature has approved new sentencing laws that would send fewer nonviolent offenders to prison. The changes are scheduled to take effect July 2014.

**9. HUNTSVILLE, Texas**—Ronnie Treadgill, 40 was executed for the 2001 carjacking and killing of a teenager, reports *The Associated Press*. Treadgill's execution was the third on this year. The fourth person executed in Texas this year was Richard Cobb, 29. Nearly 11 years ago, Cobb fatally shot Kenneth Vandever in the course of a convenience store robbery. At least 11 other prisoners are scheduled for execution in the

coming months.

**10. DETROIT**—A federal lawsuit filed by four prisoners claim the food the state's prisons offer during the month of Ramadan does not meet the typical number of calories and aren't prepared in accordance to Islamic law, reports *The Associated Press*.

**11. LITTLE ROCK, Ark.**—Kuntrell Jackson was sentenced to life in prison without parole when he was 14 years old. Jackson may have his sentenced shortened because the state's highest court ruled he deserves a new sentencing hearing in light of a U.S. Supreme Court deci-

sion last year overturning mandatory life sentences without parole for juveniles.

**12. ALBANY, N.Y.**—The state's highest court ruled parents retain child visitation rights while imprisoned, reports *The Associated Press*. The case was brought when prisoner Shawn Granger was denied visits with his 4-year old son by the child's mother. The court said parental visits are in the child's best interest.

**13. SYRACUSE, N.Y.**—Daniel Gristwood, 46 was awarded \$5.5 million in damages from the state for spending nine years in prison for an attempted murder he did not commit, reports *The Associated Press*. Gristwood claimed the imprisonment gave him post-traumatic stress disorder and interrupted his bond with his children.

**14. LUCASVILLE, Ohio**—Steve Smith, 46 was put to death for the September 1998 killing of a 6-month-old as he raped her, reports *The Associated Press*. Smith was the 51st person executed in the state since it resumed executions in 1999. There are 8 more executions scheduled from November through mid-2015 in the state.

**15. URBANA, Ill.**—Prosecutors will not oppose Andre Davis' petition to declare him innocent of a 1980 murder, reports *The Associate Press*. Davis spent 30 years in prison before DNA was used to show he did not rape and kill a 3-year-old girl. In another matter Alan Beaman was granted an innocence petition for a 1993 murder. Beaman's conviction was reversed after he spent 13 years in prison.

# Amala Foundation Gathers to Celebrate Its Third Fund Raiser in San Quentin State Prison

Continued from Page 1

also serves youth and communities worldwide. Several San Quentin organizations, including Kid Cat, Champion for Children, and The Work sup-

pion for Children.

A hardworking committee, consisting of Gino Sevaco, Dwight Krisman, Sam Johnson, and facilitator, Kathy Harris, organized the walk in support of Amala Foundation and raised about \$16,000.



Photo by Michael Nelson

Amala Foundation staff starting the morning with smiles

ports the Amala Foundation by organizing a walk on the prison's Lower Yard and talking with other prisoners about Amala's mission.

Kathy Harris of The Work has been coming inside San Quentin for 10 years to teach workshops on self-reflection and mediation. She teaches about



Photo by Michael Nelson

E. Gonzalez, Rafael Franco and Villa

"I want to give a big thanks to Kid Cat for their support. Without the support of Michelle Rochelle, Steve Emrick and the whole administration this event could not have happened," said inmate Stephen Pascascio, founder of Cham-

Our circle has people from all faiths. Our spirit rocks full of grace."

The event began with about 400 prisoners, prison staff, and Amala personnel walking the first lap in silence in a show of solidarity for the "many chil-

dren around the world who suffer abuse," said Sam Johnson, one of the event coordinators.

"The first lap around in silence was one of the most profound electrifying experiences I have ever had in my life," said a community member and volunteer, Carrynn D.

Lap upon lap, prisoners walked and held conversations about child abuse, the premise of Amala Foundation and other social concerns.

"I told myself I was going to come here with an open heart, said one of the community volunteers. "I'm so glad I did."

"Sincerity is the universal language. My heart can always open more," said Eden Trenor, who assists Harris in facilitating The Work.

Inmate Anthony "Habib" Watkins arrived at San Quentin, December 2011. "I spent most of the time at other prisons locked down," he said. "I had no access to programs and the first time I went to the board, they told me to get programs."

Watkins said while at Soledad prison programs were difficult to get into. Six years later, he had the opportunity to be transferred to San Quentin where he immediately enrolled in The Work. Commenting on his second time participating in the walk, he said, "Last year I peeled a lot of the onion, and this year it seemed that I was intoxicated by the event."

"I'm deeply, deeply grateful for the experience of coming here and meeting everyone," said volunteer Chelsea Rose C. "As I go out the words that have been spoken will ripple out in the community. When I feel low I will take the wisdom and strength of you and remember that and keep going."

"I'm very overwhelmed," said participant James D. "It was much different than what I expected. It was beautiful to see how free these guys are despite their circumstances. I don't know if the guys here realize how big of an impact they have on the community. There is a big transfer of love from San Quentin to the community."

"It's wonderful to see inmates caring," said John Curzon, San Quentin's Central Health Services, associated warden. "Inmates are not doing this for a reward. They're doing it because they want to give back." Curzon is



Photo by Michael Nelson

Supporters walking the track enjoying the day

also involved with the prison's Avon Breast Cancer Walk, and its Day of Peace celebration.

"I was raised in a violent environment, where my family caused me pain," said Amala member Nany. "So, if your family can hurt you, what can the rest of the world do to you? I can

Peace Walk has changed my life."

"I've seen so much growth from what I've seen from last year. This is a secret culture of caring people that so many people are unaware of," said Amala member and volunteer, Breez.

"Once the outside people learn about this, it will expand much larger," said Community Partnership Manager, Steve Emrick. "This gives us a sense of accomplishment. It's healing for the men. I can see this walk fits with the mission of CDCR. It gives inmates a chance to give back."



Photo by Michael Nelson

Enjoying the entertainment on the Lower Yard

never thank you all for helping me heal.

"Every time I'm in front of you guys, I cannot ignore what I see, and it's a lot," said Nany, crying. "I cry because I cannot do it any other way. I thank you every time I walk with you. Thank you for helping me heal. I've been doing what my heart is telling me to do. The Global

"I've been waiting for this moment to come back to San Quentin," said Everlyn Apoko, a leader with the Global Youth Peace Summit. "All my interactions in here teach me. I feel like Amala has given me courage. It has given me the courage to be myself. After coming to San Quentin I have had the courage to stand up for children and for human rights."



Photo by Michael Nelson

Breez, Sabastian, James, Everlyn, Savannah, and Nany getting ready for some music



Photo by Michael Nelson

Phoeun You, Nick Lopez, Ricardo Alejandro Richardson and Gary "Malaki" Scott

# Happy Father's Day

"Every day is Father's Day and every day is Mother's Day. Every day I get a visit is like Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and my Birthday, all wrapped up in one."  
-Kevin Demings

"It's more emotional outside on Father's Day, especially. We have a large family and when we get together it's like a part that's not there."  
-Ernestine Lennear

"When we all get together at grandma's house, it's like someone is missing. He's my favorite uncle."  
-Aliza Roland (7 yrs old)

"Although he is absent in the flesh, he is with us in spirit all the time. Happy Father's Day."  
-Sandra Best

"The paternal instinct between father and son makes us inseparable, yet I stand on the shoulders of my father, Mr. Wendell Best, R.I.P., soldier! Happy Father's Day."  
-Michael Best

"I love you with all my heart and if you weren't in my life I would cry. I'm so glad you're my dad. You're the best."  
-Caleb Mendoza

"Super heroes don't always have to exist with capes or supernatural powers. They don't have to be famous or save the world. As long as they save you, keep you moving, breathing and whole, then they're real heroes. Thanks for everything you've done emotionally, physically, and for taking care of us. You're the superhero of our family story. I love you dad."  
-Destiny Mendoza

"You're everything I ever dreamed of. More than I could've ever asked for. The perfect, most loving husband and dad, my best friend. Your boundless love for me and our family never ceases to amaze me. Thank you for always unconditionally loving us. For all you do and the gift of you, I love you baby forever X's 4."  
-Amanda Monroe

"Having my family in my life has brought a new kind of happiness to my heart."  
-David Monroe

"At this prison, with the majority of the inmates being more mature and over 35, the people want to be better fathers, including being a good provider and protector of the children."  
-Jason & Neima Green

"We just got married on Mother's Day, and now I get to say: Happy Father's Day! He's very special."  
-Yalonda Wesley

"It was spectacular to have my dad come and see Red and bond. To see him embrace the man I love was special."  
-Elena Potovsky



Ira Potovsky, Elena Potovsky and Bobby "Red" Frye

"This year has been a fantastic year. I am a new husband and father, and soon to be a grandfather too. It feels really great."  
-Ishmael Wesley

"It don't like seeing my son here in prison, I know he's a good man. My wife, daughter and I see him every two weeks. I am going through chemotherapy now and I want to see my son as often as I can."  
-Van Nguyen

"It's a very high priority for my father to go through the chemotherapy so he can be there for the family. He has always been there for me and I couldn't ask for a better dad."  
-Sonny Nguyen

"Fatherhood is one of the most difficult jobs there is. He is not only the figure of authority, but also your best friend."  
-LA Scott

"The one thing my father taught me was that if I can't buy something on my own, then I don't need it. Thanks, dad!"

"I wish my brother could be home for Father's Day. That would really be a wonderful day. I pray real hard that he gets out."  
-Linda Teran

"Fathers and mothers are the biggest role models there are."  
-Michael Schwarz

"Happy Father's Day to Mr. Neal Collins. A wonderful dad and a man of great integrity - and most of all, a true man of God. God bless you sir."  
-Kevin Pryor

"Father's Day is great for the man and the woman too, because it reminds the man he is not always a prisoner, but he is a man first."  
-Stacie Fuqua

"Father's Day is not only for fathers, but for men all over the world."  
-Kevin Fuqua

"To papa: for me, being with you, every day is Father's Day. It's a blessing to be your son. It is a privilege to call you my dad. Love you!"  
-Michael Lewis

"Happy Father's Day, and I hope we have many more outside these prison walls. Thank you for these memories."  
-Stacey "Duane" Butler

"Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and I hope they see their kids soon."  
-Alexandra Vastron

"I love my finance for staying true to me through thick and thin. I will never forget her. She makes my Father's Day."  
-Reginald Hunt



Caleb Mendoza, Amanda Monroe, David Monroe and Destiny Mendoza



Kevin Pryor

By Tommy Winfrey  
Contributing Writer

Raising four children successfully while incarcerated is almost unheard of, but that is exactly what Nick Garcia has done with the help of his wife of 24 years, Monica. Nick acknowledges that a lot of the success they have had as parents is because of Monica.

Their four children Monica, 23, Adam, 22, and twins Nick and Sabrina, 17, have all grown up while Nick has been in prison. Thirty-five years ago Garcia was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to seven years to life. He met Monica soon after in the visiting room at California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo. It took Nick eight years to propose marriage. "He is the key to my heart and I am the keeper of his," says Monica.

All of the Garcia children were conceived at family visiting before the state began to disallow life term prisoners the privilege of overnight stays in trailers on prison grounds with family. Being incarcerated for his children's whole lives has not stopped Nick from being present for them. "I treat my children as individuals, and show each one the attention they deserve," Nick says.

"Although poppy has not been physically present, he still holds a stake in the decision process that comes with raising kids," says daughter Monica. Daughter Sabrina calls him the "Peace Maker."

Nick said he has learned insight into what brought him to prison, thanks to self-help groups such as the Victims Offender Education Group, a program he has attended for the last four years. With this knowledge, Nick imparts the lessons he has learned in life to his children, so they will not make the same mistakes he did. "One life lesson that he has taught me is you have to have your own back, because your friends won't pay your rent," says daughter Sabrina.

"He has taught me how to hold myself as a woman, and how a man should treat me," says daughter Monica. Monica is a recent graduate from the University of California at Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in social welfare and minor in Spanish. She is using this degree to give back as a director at Camp Avery, a San Francisco program that serves children of incarcerated parents.

All of the Garcia children have been involved with Camp Avery since they were young. "Even though the children and Nick live apart, they are well connected," says Nick's wife.

"I listen to my children, and they listen to me," says Nick. Nick can often be seen doing math problems in the visiting room with his son, Nick, but this is not the only thing that he has taught him.

"When thinking of what my dad has taught me, the only thing that comes to mind is learning from my mistakes and to be the best person I am physically capable of and that God has planned," says son Nick. Nick and his twin sister Sabrina both graduated from Napa High School on June 5. Nick will be attending Concordia University in Irvine, Calif. as a pre-med student this fall.

His son Adam recalled a story from when he was a child. Around the age of 9, he ate his lunch early one day at visiting. When his dad began to eat his lunch later, Adam complained he was "starving" even though he had already eaten. Monica would not give in to Adam, because she knew he had already eaten, and if he was still hungry, he could get more to eat at home in a few hours. But the father slid his burrito to Adam, sacrificing his food in order to satisfy his son.

"A fully grown man, who already ate less than me, and does not have the opportunity to go home to a home-cooked meal; it may not seem like much, but it is acts like these that show me my dad will do absolutely anything he can to make me happy," says Adam.

Nick's children tell how it has not always been easy growing up separated from their father, but they all acknowledge how much their father loves them. "I feel I have learned from my dad's generosity and love, and by mirroring his personality, I feel I have become a better person because of it," says Adam.

"I wish a good and happy Father's Day to all of us fathers."  
-Thomas Ali-Moore

"Happy Father's Day to my wonderful Thomas. I'm looking forward to celebrating with you at home very soon, honey!"  
-Ms. J. Moore

"Know that God is never lost; keep His faith. All fathers, those who are not yet fathers, and all the guards at this facility; our heavenly Father continues to bless and keep you all in his care and love. Happy Father's Day to all."  
-Mary Elizabeth Metters

"To all the fathers, especially my dad: thanks for our lives and all your support throughout the years. You are REAL DADS!"  
-James Metters

"Dad, thanks for having my back through it all. You have taught me to be a better man by your examples of integrity and character. I hope to pass this on to my kids. I love you and Happy Father's Day."  
-Jerome Boone Sr.

"I wish I had made more time to talk with my father. I regret I didn't take more time to talk with my daddy."  
-Emily Mendoza

"I didn't spend enough time with my father and now I wish I had."  
-Larry White

"I am enjoying my visit and wish all men a Happy Father's Day."  
-Michael Stafford

"If he were not here in prison, I'd take Christopher out to Red Lobster for Father's Day, Happy Father's Day Christopher."  
-Lisa Moore

"Happy Father's Day to all the fathers that are locked up. I know this is not the best of times, but we will celebrate Father's Day anyway."  
-Christopher Markham



Camila Armengol, Abel Armengol and Jessica Alonzo

from prison by Father's Day and I'll wish my father Happy Father's Day personally. He's my hero."  
-Cassidy O'Connor

"We should honor our father each and every day. And he is Jehovah! As Matthew 23:9 says, 'Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the Heavenly One.'"  
-Janice Honea

"Happy Father's Day to my Heavenly Father!"  
-Greg Eskridge

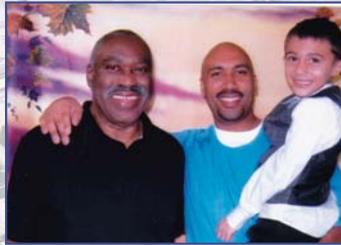
"I'd like to personally give a shout out to all the incarcerated fathers for taking care of and having a relationship with their family, and for continuing to do the best they can for their family. Happy Father's Day to all the incarcerated fathers."  
-Bobby Ray Vanderbilt

"Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and Happy Father's Day to all the mothers who have to be the father as well."  
-Tamika Rogers

"Happy Father's Day to all fathers! God bless you all."  
-Eric Johnston

"Mothers' Day is great, but we wouldn't have it without the fathers."  
-Ernie Vick

"A father is an important part of a child's life, no matter where they are. He's the most valuable tool for a child. He gives wisdom,



Leonard Boone, Jerome Boone Sr. and Jerome Boone, Jr.

our father did for us and thank him for being there for us when we needed him; that is the best way to wish him Happy Father's Day."  
-Elizabeth Ramerez

"Honor your mother and your father in order that your days may prove long upon the ground." (Exodus 20:12)  
-Theresa Alley

"I wish my dad, Claudius Johnson, a very Happy Father's Day."  
-Nakeisha Johnson

"All lifers who have been in prison more than 20 years and are fathers should be allowed to go home."  
-Morgan Tyson

"I think that all older men who have been in prison awhile and have not been in trouble should go home."  
-Bernell Tyson

"I am very happy because I will be released."  
-Rafael Escalera

"It's good to come here for Father's Day because I get a chance to visit my cousin, Rafael, plus my daughters really respect him and like to visit him."  
-Ignacio Portillo

"I love it when I come to see him because he's like a second father to me. Happy Father's Day."  
-Pamela Portillo

"When my family comes to visit me, I feel really great. We don't have that much time together and I love being with my family."  
-Rafael Escalera

"It's good to come here for Father's Day because I get a chance to visit my cousin, Rafael, plus my daughters really respect him and like to visit him."  
-Ignacio Portillo

"I love it when I come to see him because he's like a second father to me. Happy Father's Day."  
-Pamela Portillo

"I think of him like a father. When I come here I feel like I can talk with him about anything. Happy Father's Day."  
-Valeria Portillo



Jose Portillo, Pamela Portillo, Rafael Franco and Valeria Portillo

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Sudoku Corner

By Troy "Humphrey" Ashmus

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

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

### Snippets

**N**ative Americans men used hoops as a teaching tool to practice target shooting accuracy.

**E**lvis Aaron Presley was born an identical twin—his brother's name is Jesse Garon.

**C**onfucian and Confucianism is a term derived from the Latinized term Confucius. It was coined during the 18th century in Europe and bears no significant meaning or relating to anything Chinese.

**K**ennedy, John F. was elected president at age 43. He was the youngest president ever elected. Unfortunately, he died three years later at age 46.

**T**he Michelin Man was introduced in 1898, and considered to be one of the oldest known trademarks.

**I**n 1969, Jimmy Hendrix of-fended people by performing the national anthem using sounds of a distorted regressions by imitating planes, bombs, and screams, in reference to the Vietnam War. Although the people hated it, *Guitar World* voted his performance as one of the greatest guitar solos of all time.

**E**mpowering the mind and body of the Chinese citizens, Mao Zedong believed swimming and poetry would promote good health.

**S**uper Bowl MVP, Joe Montana led the San Francisco 49ers to four titles between 1981 and 1989. During his career he had a .713 win percentage.



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



**THE SHELTERING SKY** (By Paul Bowles) Horror overtakes three Americans traveling through the Sahara.



**YOGA FOR DUMMIES** (By George Fuerstein & Larry Payne) How to complete with pictures, instructions, and position.



**THE HUNGER GAMES** (By Suzanne Collins) Teenager volunteers for younger sister on live TV fight to death violent tale of survival.



**THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO** (By Alexander Dumas) Unjustly imprisoned Edmond Dantes plots against his tormenters.



**THE RAZOR'S EDGE** (By Somerset Maugham) Trauma steers wartime hero to seek spiritual enlightenment.



**TRAIN SPOTTING** (By Irving Welsh) Depressing look at the lives of drug addicts in Edinburg, Scotland.

RATINGS:

Top responses are four trophies progressing downward to one: Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.

## Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!

If I gave you 9 dimes and one is lighter than the other 8 dimes, how can you determine which dime is defective by weighing the dimes twice on a balance scale?

**The answer to last month's puzzle is:** Turn the page upside down, circle three 6's and three 1's.

Congratulations to William DeConter for winning this months prize.

Congratulations to all participant as well. Due to the shortage of supplies hats will not be issued as prizes anymore.

### Rules:

The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to Education Dept. /San Quentin News. Only one entry per person.

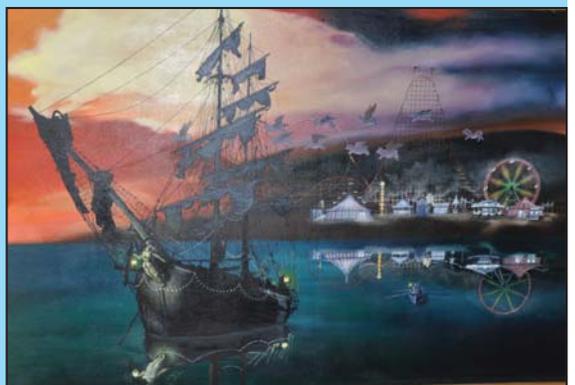
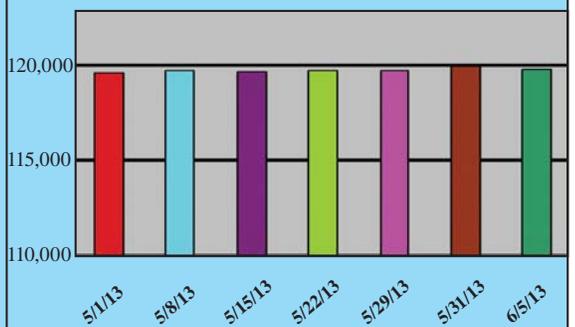
All correct submissions will be place in a hat. The winner will be picked by drawing a name from that hat.

Prize winner will receive: 4 Granola Bars

Prize will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

### CDCR Institutions Population Data Provided by CDCR Court orded population cap=110,000



Featured artwork of Larry DeRossett

### Notice:

The Last Mile will be accepting application during open call July 7, 2013 from 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm.

## An 'OG's' Perspective

### Who's Wrong and Where's the Respect?

By Watani Stiner  
Staff Writer

I was on my way down the stairway to the lower yard, heading toward the San Quentin newsroom, when I was approached by a young man who said he read and liked the "OG" news column.

He was clearly agitated and wanted to get something off his chest. He looked at me and said, "Some of these 'OGs' around here don't deserve no respect!" he complained. "If you don't give none, you don't get none. That's what I think!"

I stopped and listened as he continued, "Some of these 'OGs' around here think that these cells belong to them. They moved me in with this 'OG,' and from day one, I tried to show him some respect because of his age. And since he was older and in that cell first, I even tried to work my schedule around his program and give him more than enough alone cell-time. I know he's old and set in his ways, and he's got all these f---ing cell-rules that he expects somebody to obey. But I ain't the one. I ain't gonna just let him disrespect me. I don't care how old he is! Now you tell me

'OG,' who's wrong in that situation? Where is the respect?"

"How old is he?" I asked

"He's around 40 or 50," he said.

In between the lull in his venting, I asked "how" or "if" the situation had been resolved.

"It's been resolved as far as I'm concerned," he said. "Rather than argue with this fool or bust him upside his old head like I was thinking to, I just went on, gathered my things and got myself moved out to another cell."

I listened to this young brother as he described his situation. He wanted me to know that his encounter with this one "bitter OG" wasn't an isolated incident.

"There's lots of 'OGs' around here who don't deserve no respect," he said. However, he also wanted me to know that there were some "OGs" he respected, but that they were definitely in the minority here at San Quentin.

When he finished expressing how he felt about his former "OG" cellmate, I asked him if he had any questions or a particular issue he wanted me to speak to or put on the table, but I already knew what to say. I already knew what he was thinking...

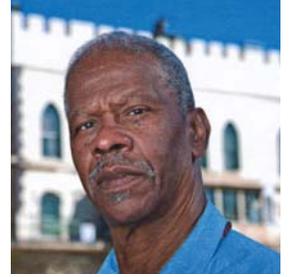
While initially the young man wanted to know "who is wrong," I don't believe that's the real issue. It's not a question of who is wrong -- the young man or his "OG" cellmate -- it's a question of what is wrong. And what's wrong is two grown men being forced to live together in a cage half the size of a small bedroom closet. Such a condition, by any stretch of the imagination, is certainly not conducive for a harmonious relationship between any human being.

I believe if we begin the conversation with the understanding that our living arrangements are not ours by choice, we begin to understand that when you cram two people together in such small quarters, regardless of how compatible they might be or you think they might be, it requires mutual consideration and tolerance to make it work. It demands a great deal of patience for two people to make compromises and navigate peacefully inside such a restrictive space. The issue of respect becomes critical.

However, the need for respect is not just limited to men and women locked up in prison. This lesson can apply to any

situation. We can see from the nightly news that many, many people struggle to respect others even when they do not live in a cage. The amount of gang and domestic violence, child abuse, or just plain rudeness and hatred on the streets is massive. Thus, the two critical questions I ask myself are: (1) Where does respect come from? and (2) How do you manufacture respect for someone when you're not feeling it?

From an OG's perspective, I believe the nature and quality of respect is rooted in the inherent worthiness of all humans. Having respect for someone is different from having manners. It's much more than being kind, courteous or polite at any given moment or occasion. Rather, it's an "inalienable" human worthiness that we all possess and which cannot be denied or diminished by social status or any other distinguishing characteristics and condition. This is why cultivating self-respect is so necessary as a prerequisite for appreciating human worth and extending it to others. A respectful person is one who has the moral consideration and human sensitivity toward others that one wants for



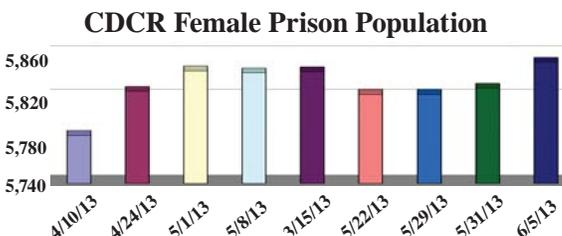
File Photo

Watani Stiner

him or herself.

Not at all surprisingly, it would be difficult to manufacture respect for someone when you're not really feeling it. And even if you do manage to fake it, it's not sustainable, especially when you consider the person you're interacting with as less than humanly deserving of your respect. But when we value, honor and respect the full potentials of all human life, then we begin to value, treat and appreciate our fellow human-being as we each would like to be treated and appreciated. It becomes a spiritual practice based on human dignity and the benefit this knowledge and understanding brings to any relationship.

Thus, it's a practice not simply to manufacture respect, but to love being respectful. For it seeks to establish a moral agreement based not on cold calculation or rule and duty, but on the dignity and benefit it brings to both the respectful and the respected.



### Female Prison Population Increased Dramatically Since the 1980's

By Jane Dorotik  
Contributing Writer

The incarceration rate of females has increased by over 500 percent since the 1980s.

There are key factors that sustain female criminality, including histories of physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse, and mental illness.

Crimes committed by women are often in support of the man they are with, including drugs and "taking the rap" for their partner's crime.

The pathways into criminal behaviors are different than for men, and their experience in the prison setting is also different. While a fair amount of research has gone into defining the pathways into prison for women, little examination has been done exploring how women experience prison and how they view themselves once incarcerated.

Yet, women suffer greatly in the prison setting for several reasons.

These reasons include the emotional and economic effects

of mothers separated from their children and families, and the stress and depression associated with the manifestation of domestically violent behavior of the pre-incarcerated women to the form of dominance and oppression in the incarcerated women.

Healing emotional wounds, regaining personal control, exploring patterns of unsatisfying relationships, and challenging entrenched attitudes must be a part of recovery strategies.

We must help women build productive lives with greater emotional literacy and increased pro-social behavior.

There must be opportunities to practice these new skills in the incarcerated setting. Building skills, healing emotional wounds, and increasing self-awareness can both ease the stress of incarceration and establish solid foundation for the work of re-entry.

--Jane Dorotik is a prisoner at the California Institute for Women in Corona.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Using Blindness to See Things Clearly

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

*Blindness* takes on a wide-range of social ills: over-population, the government's apathy toward the middle class, the relationship between selfishness and power, and how individual shortsightedness clouds judgment.

Nobel Prize winner for Literature, Jose Saramago uses the loss of sight as a metaphor to explain how the social order, if it is to survive, must be rooted in common sense.

A random driver, stopped in the middle of traffic, becomes the first casualty of this unexplainable and sudden phenomenon.

His blindness makes no sense. It just happened. Then the blindness goes viral. One by one, every man, woman and child is stricken by the syndrome; the victim sees not darkness, but a cloud of whiteness.

In a panic, the government decides to quarantine anyone stricken with the blindness or who has had contact with a blind person.

"Blindness isn't something that can be caught just by a blind man looking at someone who is not. Blindness is a private

matter between a person and the eyes with which he or she was born," writes Saramago.

The main characters are identified simply as the first blind man, the doctor, his wife, the boy with the squint, the girl with dark glasses, the man with the black patch over his eye, and the other woman.

"We're so remote from the world that any day now, we shall no longer know who we are, or even remember our names," writes Saramago.

The group of seven discovers existing is a challenge with food, hygiene, and shelter becoming the focus in their quarantined lives.

However, to the group of seven's advantage, the doctor's wife has not lost her sight. "You do not know. You cannot know, what it is means to have eyes in a world in which everyone else is blind," the doctor's wife says as she struggles to help the group carry on.

The dialogue among the group is phrased in allegorical double-meanings as they attempt to give a reason for their sudden blindness and pursue efforts to stay alive. "The difficult thing isn't living with other people, it's understanding them," writes Saramago. Eventually, the blindness

spread throughout the entire city.

Saramago describes the blind city-dwellers as "simple, sexless forms, vague shapes, shadows losing themselves in the half-light. They fade into the surrounding light, and it is the light which does not allow them to see."

Saramago uses metaphorical language. "To be blind is not the same as being dead. Yes, but to be dead is to be blind." He is saying as long as a person is alive, they should strive for meaning, "If we cannot live entirely like human beings, at least let us do everything in our power not to live entirely like animals."

This novel is difficult to read and comprehend at some points; however, it grows on you as you learn how to live and understand what *Blindness* means. Interpreting the tragedy, Saramago writes, "Illnesses may differ from one person to another, but what is really killing us now is blindness." He adds, "It even used to be said here is no such thing as blindness, only blind people. When the experience of time has taught us nothing other than that there are no blind people, but only blindness."

## Health & Wellness

By A. Zia, RDH  
Dental Hygienist

### Expert Dental Advice for Keeping Healthy Teeth

Your mouth is a gateway to your body. There are more bacteria living in your mouth than there are people on Earth. Most of the bacteria are harmless, but if you ignore your oral health, harmful bacteria called plaque can grow. Plaque is an acidic sticky substance that can lead to a gum disease called gingivitis and tooth cavities. The first sign of gingivitis is bleeding and inflamed gums. Don't stress over plaque too much.

There are a few things you can do to remove the plaque:

- Brush your teeth 2-3 times a day and floss once daily. Try to brush after every meal or at least rinse your mouth with water. The teeth hold 20 percent of your oral bacteria. When brushing your teeth it's important to brush your tongue and rinse your mouth.

- Choose healthy snacks like fruit and vegetables over sugary candies and sodas. High fiber fruits (apples, bananas, avocados, and berries) and vegetables (carrots and broccoli) not only help your overall health but they also stimulate saliva flow, which helps fight those bad bacteria.

- Avoid tobacco of all kinds, even smokeless tobacco, which is known to increase the risk of gum disease and oral cancers.

- Rinse your mouth after drinking coffee and colored drinks. This will help minimize the stains on your teeth.

Taking good care of your teeth is important to avoid toothaches and tooth loss. Additionally, there is a connection between oral health and your body's health.

The bacteria in your mouth can damage other parts of your body by traveling through your blood stream. Furthermore, research shows that the harmful bacteria plays a role in heart disease and stroke.

There is also some evidence that tooth loss before age 35 may be a risk factor for Alzheimer's disease.

## Some California Counties Are Refusing to Sign New Contracts

By Kris Himmelberger  
Staff Writer

Most California counties claim federal reimbursements for prison health care do not cover the cost, and are refusing to sign new contracts, the Legislative Analyst's Office reports.

Since 1997, federal policy allowed states to collect federal Medicaid reimbursement for low-income prisoners. However, in 2007 the health care service was put into receivership. Since then, the receiver has been able to collect those reimbursements.

The receiver currently has agreements with 12 counties, covering nearly three-fourths of the prisoners, notes the LAO.

That program is delivered through counties and allows matching funds to be drawn for reimbursements. The state pays those counties a \$10 administrative fee per covered prisoner. However, some counties have not signed agreements, including a consortium of 35 rural counties that have balked at the low amount of overhead funding the state offers.

The legislative analyst estimates California would save \$13 million if agreements could be reached with the counties opting out. The LAO calculates that solving those and other such problems, as well as expanding the state Medicaid program to qualify for 100 percent federal funding, would mean an addi-

tional \$40 million in reimbursements for inmate healthcare.

Joyce Hayhoe, court-appointed spokeswoman for healthcare receiver J. Clark Kelso said her office concurs with the LAO report. "We appreciate their in-depth review," said Hayhoe. Kelso's legislative affairs liaison. Hayhoe said the office is continuing negotiations with counties to secure more Medicaid coverage agreements.

Gov. Jerry Brown contends California spends too much on prison medical services. The court-appointed receiver's office reports spending \$1.6 billion on inmate healthcare this year, a decline from the program's \$2 billion budget several years ago.

## Technology Used to Address Facts

By Charles David Henry  
Staff Writer

Emerging technology and factors not adequately considered in previous years are beginning to prove that everyone in prison is not guilty of a crime.

Factors include enhanced DNA testing, sophisticated cell phone triangulation, video pictures, debunking of some lab tests, and facial feature identification. There is also new understanding of the unreliability of eyewitness testimony and ineffective legal counsel.

In the last two decades, more than 299 individuals have been freed after DNA testing showed they were erroneously convicted of rape and murder, according to the U.S. Department of Justice-funded study.

"There appears to be no letup in the steady stream of prisoners whose innocence is established by increasingly sophisticated DNA testing," according to the report. It quotes the national In-

nocence Project as saying about two-thirds of the DNA exonerations in homicide cases involved false confessions.

"Nationally, over three-quarters of known erroneous convictions (many of them in rape cases) involve eyewitness misidentifications," the report says.

Forty-two percent of exonerations involved prosecutorial error, malicious conduct, failure to give the defense evidence that would prove innocence, and inexperience of criminal justice officials – not limited to prosecutors.

In a 23-year period, inadequate defense representation, "bad lawyering," was the biggest contributing factor to the erroneous conviction in a large number of capital murder cases, according to a separate study by Columbus University.

In the wake of sophisticated DNA testing, six states have created innocence commissions and more than 40 state legisla-

tures passed laws to help those convicted of crimes gain access to biological evidence for testing.

The survey examined several studies that found over a 27-year period, 14-25 percent of wrongful convictions contained false confessions.

Another factor is what the study calls "tunnel vision" – when criminal justice professionals "focus on a suspect, select and filter the evidence that will 'build a case' for conviction, while ignoring the suppressing evidence that points away from guilt."

The report also blames "perjured informant testimony" for 15 percent of erroneous convictions that were overturned by DNA evidence.

We should "increase our attention to the failing dynamics of the criminal justice system, rather than simply isolating errors or causes that lead to erroneous convictions," the report concludes.

## The Key To Getting Out Of Prison is Having the 'Right Attitude'

By Haro Agakian  
Journalism Guild Writer

Two former San Quentin prisoners say the key to getting out is the right attitude.

With the right attitude, prisoners can take advantage of a wealth of self-help programs to turn their lives around, said one-time police officer and former San Quentin inmate Doug Butler.

"Stay focused you can get out of this place," said Edgar Allen, another former prisoner who appeared with Butler at a recent meeting of the San Quentin Journalism Guild.

Butler was convicted of murder in 1984. He started his prison term at Vacaville, and was subsequently transferred to Tehachapi, New Folsom, Solano, and Soledad before eventually arriving in San Quentin in

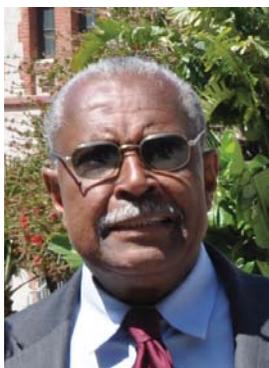


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Doug Butler

1992.

"San Quentin is a Mecca of programming," said Butler, as he encouraged the men to get involved.

During his incarceration, Butler said he kept the District Attorney's Office informed of the

programs he was involved in. He went on to suggest that the men in blue do the same.

Butler posed the question to the room, "How do you get out?" His answer was with the right attitude.

Butler said with fortitude, perseverance and resilience, a prisoner can put their mistakes behind them and move on. "Focus on you," said Butler.

"You are blessed from the standpoint of being here at San Quentin," Butler added. He encouraged everyone who didn't complete high school to get a GED equivalency diploma.

Allen, who is a church elder, began his prison term for murder in 1969 at San Quentin. Now he ministers to youth in the Alameda County Juvenile Hall.

He recalled that at his sentencing hearing he faced the death penalty because a police officer

was killed during his crime. From that point he knew he was going to face adversity.

Allen said he did not let the adversity stop him from changing.

"After the trial took place, something hit me in the heart, and I knew I had to learn to read and write so I could tell the family of the victim, 'I'm sorry.'"

Prior to this decision, Allen said, "I lived independent of God, driven by another god, the dope god."

When growing up in the streets of Oakland, Allen said he had his own apartment at the age of 13. He said he ran a dice game to make money, but he could not read.

"I learned to read in prison," Allen said.

Now Allen considers God the source of all life. "We need you (prisoners) badly out here (in the

free world). You need to be with the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit--those are your real homeboys," said Allen.

Allen closed by saying, "You have to get strength to do right."

--Several Journalism Guild Members contributed to this story.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Edgar Allen

# Reconsidering Juvenile Rehabilitative Needs

*'Highly regimented, prison-like facilities are designed to contain delinquent behavior rather than address needs'*

By Lizzie Buchen, M.S.  
Center for Juvenile and  
Criminal Justice

In the early morning hours of May 11, 2011, while sleeping on his living room sofa, Jeffrey Hall was shot dead from point-blank range. The killer was Hall's son, who had a long history of violence. He had stabbed several people, choked another with a telephone cord, and committed arson. Yet confining this person behind bars, as many want to do, is misguided, short-sighted, and destined to fail him and society due to one unusual fact: He was only 10 years old.

During his April 15 sentencing, Hall's lawyers presented evidence about his psychological well-being.

One of Hall's siblings filed a civil rights complaint against the county mental health and educational services alleging as a result of years of systematic denials of his education and civil rights, he is entitled to placement in a residential education treatment facility instead of juvenile detention.

## PUNISHMENT

Some argue the only way to deal with such a severely troubled child is to send him to a correctional institution in the state's Division of Juvenile Facilities (DJF). Although DJF has a sordid history, blighted by litigation over its appalling levels of violence and lack of rehabilitative services, proponents argue it is now safer and more humane than it was in the past. But no matter how much

the system improves, DJF's outmoded and deteriorating facilities will never be fit for children.

The institutions of DJF are prison-like correctional facilities, designed to efficiently confine a large number of people. The youth at O.H. Close Youth Correctional Facility, which confines the state's youngest wards, reside in open dormitories, often with as many as 30 other youth, many of whom struggle with behavioral and mental health issues. Violence is endemic to this kind of housing. Older, stronger youth are known to exploit and victimize those who are weaker and more vulnerable, like this boy, who would be the youngest ward at DJF, and who, when arriving at juvenile hall, "was so little they didn't have shoes to fit him," according to the prosecuting attorney. The children at DJF are compelled to join gangs for protection.

## ENVIRONMENT

The environment is particularly damaging for those with serious behavioral issues, like this young boy. Highly regimented, prison-like facilities are designed to contain delinquent behavior rather than address needs. Thus, violent or aggressive youth receive restrictions and punishment rather than therapy and support, compounding their problems.

Rehabilitation is difficult, if not impossible, if youth are in a chronic state of fear and defiance. According to 2010 data from the California De-



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Lizzie Buchen, M.S., on the Lower Yard

partment of Corrections and Rehabilitation, more than 80 percent of the youth who have been confined in DJF are arrested again; many end up in adult prisons. DJF has little incentive to address this problem. Once a youth has completed his time, the division is relieved of any responsibility and returns him to his home county's jurisdiction.

This boy suffered through a turbulent childhood, resulting in serious needs that will not be met by DJF. He suffered daily abuse from his father, who often punched and kicked him. He has psychological problems, including violent behaviors that began at 18

months of age, likely resulting from his mother's alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The boy regularly attended white supremacy rallies with his father, who was the regional leader for a national neo-Nazi organization. His parents were generally negligent. When the police arrived at his home after the murder, they noted the residence was "filthy and not sanitary," "the bedrooms smelled like urine" and the "mattresses, pillows and blankets were stained and soiled." According to the boy's defense attorney, Child Protective Services had been called to the house 20 times.

What this boy needs is a

safe and therapeutic environment focused on rehabilitation. Moreover, he needs a continuity of care and support that begins when he is in confinement, follows him through his treatment and custody, and remains with him when he re-enters the community.

## SOLUTION

The judge can meet these needs by sending the boy to a secure residential treatment facility, or group home. Such facilities are located in the community, secured 24 hours per day, and offer intensive and individualized treatment from a broad assortment of community resources, including psychiatrists, social workers and counselors.

Group homes do not have the extreme violence and gang subculture of DJF, and offer a range of security levels, allowing youth to gradually step down to less restrictive settings as they improve. Staying in the community also allows youth to maintain contact with their families and develop other support systems, which will ease their eventual transitions back to the community.

This young boy has been traumatized his entire life. Placing him in DJF, where his mental and emotional health will continue to decline, and where he will live in constant fear of assault, will only traumatize him further. Wherever the judge decides to send this child, he will return to his community by the time he is 23 years old. Eleven years from now, what sort of man do we want to come home?

## The Importance of Having a Father Figure in the Household

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The men on the mainline have a variety of opinions on fatherhood. "Asked on the Line" conducted random, informal interviews with 20 mainliners and asked: "Did you grow up with a dad? If not, did you have a father figure or male role model? What characteristic did you love about your dad or role model? What characteristic should every good father have?"

Nine or about 45 percent of the men interviewed did not grow up with fathers, but did have father figures or male role models they looked up to.

James Evens said that "Teddy" was his father figure. "He used to take us to the park and fishing in Louisiana," said Evens. "What I liked most about Teddy is that he had many other women and he always looked out for us."

For Kenyatta Leal, his sports coach, Dennis Garon, was his male role model. "He was caring, consistent and always available," said Leal. "One thing I learned from him was my work ethic."

***"I didn't have a dad or a male role model. I was raised by my grandmother"***

Ke Lam's male role model was his teacher. "He was a good listener," said Lam.

Rico Roger's father figure was his stepfather and Dwight Kennedy's father figure was

his uncle. Kennedy respected his uncle's integrity and ambition. But for Terrell Merritt, his "friend's father" was his male role model.

Two men claimed that they had no father figure.

"I didn't have a dad or a male role model. I was raised by my grandmother," said Danny Linn. "She was honest and strong minded."

Juan Arballo also claimed to have had no male role model in his life.

Of the men interviewed that had fathers, all liked or respected at least one trait or characteristic of their dads.

Rudy Walker liked that his dad was humble and a great provider. "He never beat us," said Walker.

Tommy Winfrey liked that his dad was tough, while Tristan liked that his dad was "very calm."

Eric Boles liked his father's loyalty, and Nou Thou liked that his dad was "giving."

"He was smart," said Jesus Flores. "He had a great sense of humor," said James Burrell.

"He was very loving," said Joseph Demerson.

Many of the men were also proud to have similar character traits with their dads. "My dad and I both love women," said Arturo Avalos.

Jeffrey Scott Long and his dad both know how to "build". "I like building and creating," said Long. "We both tend to work hard," said Joseph Bur-

rell.

Finally, as to what characteristic every good father should have: Leal, Flores, Merritt and Boles all thought a father should be present or there for his children. Long, Linn and Thou all thought a father should be loving to his children first and foremost. Demersen, Jones and Evens believe every good father should first be understanding toward his children.

"He should be dedicated," said Kennedy. "He should be truthful," said Burrell.

"He should express love for his children," said Winfrey.

"He should educate his children," said Walker.

"He should be a positive example," said Lam.

"He should have integrity," said Arballo.

"He should know how to communicate with his children," said Avalos.

# Feather River College Makes Historical Decision

By Boston Woodard  
Staff Writer

Six years ago, the faculty and staff at Feather River College made what they were sure would be an historic decision. Professor Joan Parkin said the fateful decision was “to open its doors to the incarcerated for the first time in the college’s history.”

The Feather River College Incarcerated Student Program (ISP) is the newest rehabilitative program permitted to provide educational opportunities to qualified San Quentin students.

Parkin, who holds a Ph.D. and is director of the program, and Kelly Conner, instructional assistant with ISP, recently spent time speaking with San Quentin prisoners, taking applications for a course in French language, and eventually enrolling around 50 prisoners. This was FRC’s second visit to San Quentin this year.

Since 2007, Feather River College has been offering correspondence only courses to prisoners. The California Correctional Center at Susanville, the Central California Women’s Facility, Pelican Bay in Crescent City, the California Men’s Colony in San Luis Obispo, and now San Quentin provide FRC on-site classes for the incarcerated.

FRC’s interest in San Quentin came about because of prisoner Michael Calvin Holmes, who was enrolled in the college program while at the California Men’s Colony. At CMC, Holmes took Pre Algebra, Arts Appreciation, English, Psychology, and is now able to take a class in Beginning French at San Quentin.

“As a continuing student, I am confident that my participation in Feather River College will assure my success,” said Holmes. “I feel FRC has given me a new start and a solid foundation as well.”

According to Parkin, FRC offers “a general education set of courses, occupation and technical programs and Associate degree.” Their program is set up to give the opportunity to receive certificates to a diverse prisoner population.

San Quentin educator Tom Bolema said, “A growing demand for college programming among resident students is timely, as SQ’s GED literacy coordinator are effecting many graduations.

“We are funded the same way every community college is, by the Board of Governors, as it applies to all California residents including prisoners,” said Parkin. The cost of all college books issued to students is absorbed by FRC, because most students cannot afford them.

“We need more funding for what we aim to do which is to bring an associates degree program to any inmate who wants one,” said Parkin. Feather River College would like to provide

a re-entry structured program upon a student’s release.

San Quentin educator J. Kaufman commented, “A major portion of California’s budgetary pie is spent on the CDCR (incarcerating prisoners). All the preeminent prison research studies show that educating inmates reduces recidivism.”

high on the Feather River College agenda.

“Everyone benefits from this opportunity,” said instructional assistant Conner. “We are thrilled to be part of this important opportunity for you men at San Quentin and hope to expand our curriculum here.”

San Quentin literacy coordi-



File Photo

Program Director Joan Parkin, Ph.D.

Many prison educators say that funds can be reallocated to other areas of need by spending less taxpayer dollars on incarceration.

Professor Parkin said one goal of Feather River College is to provide programs that “will enhance personal development and rehabilitation through an effective learning process that helps students to attain their goals.” This helps to increase the student’s “self worth and confidence,” explained Parkin.

FRC Instructional Assistant Conner said it would take ISP students 6 semesters to complete an Associate degree and “will advance their educational growth.”

When asked what it means to be part of Feather River College’s Beginning French course, prisoner Orlando Harris said, “For me, it means I have an opportunity to be part of San Quentin’s Voluntary Education Program, which allows me to pursue my educational goals.”

ISP’s vision entails a multifaceted set of offers such as short-term certificate programs, to maintain the college-level quality and rigor expected of students, provide quality education to a diverse group of prisoners of various backgrounds, ages and genders, and expanded employment opportunities.

Maintaining high expectations for “success, educational preparedness, and student achievement with the goal of reducing recidivism rates” is

nator K. Williams who helped facilitate FRC’s visit around the prison, said, “FRC offers correspondence courses designed for even ‘condemned row’ prisoners to receive an AA degree. As such, every San Quentin prisoner has the opportunity to be successful in getting a quality education.”

Among the many educational institutions that offer programs to San Quentin are Coastline College, Patten College, Lassen Community College, Ohio University and Blackstone College. FRC is coordinating with these other programs to provide even more opportunities.

“We are all at San Quentin to assist in educating—this is not a competition,” said Parkin. FRC is unique in the sense that it “provides education with a human touch... designed to accommodate as many students as possible.”

FRC facilitators say that public skepticism abounds when it comes to educating the incarcerated, but the FRC’s supporters understand that this is a result of “over three decades of more retributive than rehabilitative policies governed by tough-on-crime legislators.”

FRC’s catalogue elucidates the importance of education behind bars which benefits both the prisoner and society. Former California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Secretary James E. Tilton in the FRC catalog said he values an educated prison populace.

Tilton argued, “Post secondary education programs provide prisoners with opportunities and tools required for successful re-entry into society.”

This reinforcement reduces recidivism and provides “enormous fiscal and public safety benefits.” In other words, “an ex-felon who is educated, is as much better neighbor than one who is not,” according to research from Feather River College.

San Quentin prisoner and FRC applicant Julian Glenn Padgett said, “This is a special time to further my education and invest time in learning. I’m excited about being a part of Feather River College and what they promote.”

Padgett said that those who participate in opportunities such as those provided by FRC, “have the advantage of equal opportunities once we are released from incarceration.”

Skeptics insist that spending money to educate prisoners is wasted money. “Spending \$51,000 per year to keep an uneducated, unskilled individual in prison just doesn’t make any sense,” said Conner. “This is a perfect opportunity to prepare someone to make it in society after release from prison.”

“Educating inmates has a positive ripple effect throughout society; it improves the quality of life for all citizens,” said Kaufman.

Teacher Tom Bolema said that there is strong evidence that these programs not only provide the tools to students to succeed in the classroom, they lower recidivism.

Parkin said they have seen “complete transformations.” Some men and women could “barely write” when they enrolled in the program, and then

learned beyond expectations.

“There is much excitement here, especially for the Volunteer Education Program coordinators, to have more access for students to higher education,” said Bolema, “This is good for residents, good for custody [staff], and good for the prison culture.”

“A lot of what we do has to do with how receptive each prison’s administration is toward education as a rehabilitative tool,” said Conner. “San Quentin seems to be a place where prisoners can enjoy an atmosphere where everyone seems to get along for the most part.”

FRC recently held its 3rd commencement ceremony at Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla, graduating 35 students, some with Associate Degrees, according to Parkin.

The high security Pelican Bay State Prison in Crescent City recently had its first graduation. One student graduate was housed in that prison’s Security Housing Unit (SHU), a first at that institution. The SHU graduate, who took courses by correspondence, was escorted in shackles to a designated area in the prison and issued his diploma by FRC staff.

Both FRC representatives, Joan Parkin and Kelly Conner, had a powerful influence on both students and San Quentin staff.

“It was a very noticeable impact on the overall atmosphere of San Quentin’s Education Department, creating a mood of excitement and energy about pursuing subjects not offered at other San Quentin based colleges,” said K. Williams.

“I feel privileged to be part of the FRC program,” said Joe Shelton. “There is no doubt that the education I’m receiving via FRC courses are going to make the difference for the better I’ve been striving for since my incarceration.”

For more information visit [www.frc.edu](http://www.frc.edu)



File Photo

Instructional Assistant Kelly Conner

# Correction Officer Hunt Retires and Goes Fishing

By Ted Swain  
Journalism Guild Writer

Officer Gregory Hunt retired on May 16 after 29 years at San Quentin State Prison. Hunt says one thing he is sorry he missed during his years here is the visit of Mother Theresa.

7:30 on the Thursday morning he retired, the staff of the Education Building, where Hunt had been stationed for the past several years, gave him a little going-away celebration saying "Please don't go!"

Someone asked him about his one-year and five-year plan for retirement. He said he plans to get his house in shape because he has been working so much

he has a bit of deferred maintenance. He also said he is going to get his boat in shape so he can do some fishing. Sharing donuts all around, Officer Hunt said he is happy to have had the job at San Quentin.

"You know how some people dread to go to work and figure out ways to be on sick leave to stay home from work?" Well, he says, "I have always enjoyed my work here. I have never woke up and dreaded to come to work!"

His experiences during his 29-year career at San Quentin have always been fulfilling and satisfying, but sometimes there was tension.

When he was young and looking for a way to go in life, he

kept seeing one of his friend's big overtime check. That made him want to work at San Quentin too. During the first day on the job and at the start of his training, the officer who was conducting a tour of the prison told him not to worry about the rifle shots he kept hearing. "Just routine! Happens every day, don't worry about it," said the training officer. Hunt indicates that statement made him think a little bit, but he is glad made a career with the prison system.

During his stay at San Quentin, Hunt has worked every post there is, from Condemned Row to the tower positions. The front gate was one of the most enjoyable, because of all the great people he has been able to meet, including famous and not-so-famous people.

There have been a lot of changes in CDCR during Hunts stay at San Quentin. He says the most significant change has been the advent of all the other prisons in the state. Up until that point, there were 1,700 ad seg cells and the whole prison was in constant lockdown. "Before Pelican Bay, we had the real bad boys!" he said.

Working the various posts Hunt has had a variety of experiences. Some he liked and some he did not. He liked meeting Carlos Santana, Paul Rodriguez, Ice T, and Star Trek stars -- as visitors, that is.

The administration was taken aback because they didn't know who Ice T was. Hunt added, "They were surprised by his entourage when he came to put on a show in the dining hall."

Asked if he ever feels sorry for the Death Row guys or anyone, he said, "Never. They did what they did and we all have to deal with the consequences of our actions." However, he quickly added, "This place is Wally World compared to what it was years ago."



Photo by Sam Heames

C/O. Hunt working down in the education building on the Lower Yard

Some of the inmates he has supervised include Charles Manson, Richard Ramirez, and Richard Allen Davis, the guy who killed Polly Klaus, thereby starting the three strikes movement.

If you want an eerie feeling, "just escort the guy who was the cause of three strikes. Walking across and area with 500 guys who stare at your ward with absolutely the most intense hatred you can imagine," he said. "Well, let's just say it's intense."

Hunt says that when he first started, there were no false alarms. He said there were a lot of spearings, stabbings, and other violent acts. Yet the men all got three hot meals a day. At first, all the inmates were serious offenders. Regardless of whether you wear green or blue, "This is like a small city," he says, "and it's up to each officer to make a place for himself. Just like the inmates!" he opined.

"With Berkeley, Stanford, and lots of self-help programs, San Quentin is a pioneer," said Hunt. "Do all the programs do any good?" he questions. "And then he answers himself saying, 'If they help even one young kid or other inmate, it's worth it.'"

Officer Hunt has some strong feelings about what works and what doesn't work. For one thing he says, lifers have a very low risk of coming back to prison. "After a person has done a long time in prison, he's not

likely to do something stupid when he gets out."

Hunt said, "The governor is a politician and no politician wants to be blamed for even one person getting out and committing a crime. But, if these men had jobs, that would make a real difference."

He said that if a man gets out of prison but can't even get a legitimate job, well, obviously he doesn't have many options. "What does society expect?" he asked.

Officer Hunt says that the legal system doesn't always have clean hands either. He told of one San Quentin ward, Black Panther Party leader Geronimo Pratt, who the FBI let sit here in prison for 20 years before it became known that they knew he didn't commit the crime. They had him under surveillance at the time of the alleged incident, and knew that he was somewhere else and didn't do it. "So," he commented, "from Charles Manson to Huey Newton, I've seen quite a few inmates and the one thing I have to say is that you have to consider each one on his own."

Drawing from his many years of experience, Gregory Hunt said, "Everyone should be required to have at least a GED before they can get out." Pausing for a second, he adds, "And we should help them get a job."

Hunt says of his nearly three decades at San Quentin, "it's been fun, but now I'm going fishing."

## Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin

### Memorial Day

By Chris Schuhmacher  
VVGSG Chairman

It was an overcast morning on the lower yard when the Vietnam Veterans Group took San Quentin's Field of Dreams. At a few minutes before noon on May 28, the command to "Fall in!" pierced through the yard as the nearly 45 group members displayed their patriotism in company formation for a Memorial Day observance.

The group waited at parade rest under the leadership of Chairman Christopher 'Nuke' Schuhmacher until the clock struck high noon. From across the field, the Honor Guard raised the United States and POW/MIA flags and began their march towards the formation.

The command was given and the group came to attention and awaited the posting of the colors. With the Honor Guard in place, Chairman Schuhmacher gave the command 'Present Arms!' that was followed by a group salute from the formation.

Honor Guard member, trumpet player, Larry 'Popeye' Faison, took his position on the field, and played Taps to honor the men and women who gave their lives serving in the military.

Craig Johnson, a US Navy veteran and VVGSG Honor Guard squad leader, said of his participation, "Memorial Day is a day to honor those who have served in defense of this country and given the ultimate sacrifice. I may be incarcerated, but today I still take pride in my ability to serve."

Once Taps was completed, the command 'Order Arms!' was given and Faison reentered the Honor Guard's formation. They skillfully wheeled about and made their way back across the field. Chairman Schuhmacher and the entire VVGSG waited at attention while the Honor Guard exited.

It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop, which seldom happens on a prison yard of over 1000 men. After a moment of silence, Chairman Schuhmacher gave the command 'Fall out!' and the group disbursed and went their separate ways.

"In my 13 years of incarceration, I've never been as proud to be a veteran as I was that day with my veteran brothers.", said US Air Force veteran Schuhmacher. "On that day...for those brief moments, I forgot all about being locked up. I was able to reflect on the significance of what it means to serve in the US Armed Forces. I hope I never lose that feeling."

The VVGSG is a veterans group at San Quentin made up of honorably discharged veterans from all eras 1776 to present. If you've served in the United States Armed Forces and have an embossed DD-214 'Under Honorable Conditions' discharge, please contact the VVGSG member-at-large in your housing unit to obtain an application.

For those without 'Honorable' discharge status, the VVGSG encourages you to contact the VIP office in the Education Dept. to begin the procedure for having your discharge upgraded. The VVGSG welcomes your participation in our mission of continuing to serve the veteran community.



Photo by Sam heames

VVGSG in company formation on the Lower Yard

# Anna Phelan Shares Her Experience on San Quentin Visit

**Lonnie Morris**  
Contributing Writer

One of San Quentin's strongest friends is Anna Phelan, the Academy Award-nominated screenwriter of *Gorillas in the Mist*, and *Mask*, who has been supporting the prison's television operation for many years.

The first time Phelan came to San Quentin the word she used to describe her experience was "clarity."

"I just thought, 'Oh my God; people don't know,'" Phelan said. "I mean, all of these people incarcerated."

Phelan made her first trip to San Quentin in 1991. She said that coming to the prison obviously had an enormous effect on her because she keeps coming back.

"I come back to volunteer and do interviews trying to raise money for the TV station here," said Phelan.

During her first visit, Phelan met with Lt. Vernell Crittendon, who at that time was San Quentin's public relations officer; television specialist Larry Schneider and the SQTV production team.

What hooked her, Phelan said, were all the incarcerated people she saw, because afterwards she went home "confused and messed up."

"I felt I had to do something," said Phelan. "That was the start of

it—just being aware of the prison industrial complex."

Phelan said she saw the prisoners' brainpower -- some good and maybe some not so good -- and felt she had to do something. For over 20 years, Phelan has volunteered her movie making skills from filmmaking to script writing to help the men of San Quentin improve themselves.

"The way to start to turn it around is to have people from the outside come in and give their expertise to the incarcerated," Phelan said. "So the inmate may have a chance out there."

Through her efforts as a volunteer Phelan has brought other celebrities to San Quentin, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Taylor Branch, film director Martha Coolidge, and Paula Walker a commercial director and winner of the Cannes Silver Lion Award.

"The fact that I brought my son in here to volunteer underlies how important I think volunteers are," Phelan said. "It comes down to just taking care of people, whether your family or complete strangers."

Phelan put her beliefs of helping complete strangers into action while living in Santa Monica when 15-year-old Jonathan McDonald was arrested for stealing her Jeep Cherokee.

"I had to go to court and testify and when I took a look at that

young man, I thought about this kid and my experience at San Quentin."

Had it not been for her experience at San Quentin, Phelan said she probably would not have testified in McDonald's favor.

"I saw him and I thought something had to be done, so after he was sent to a youth facility in Lancaster, I contacted him," Phelan said.

Phelan said as little girl growing up, she always felt somewhat odd and alien from the rest of the world, and that she has always been attracted to stories about people who are alienated or at least feel alienated from everyone else."

After getting approval from his counselor, Phelan made arrangements to visit McDonald.

"When he saw me, I think he thought I was there to hurt him," said Phelan. "We talked and I told him that when he got out, he was to come and see me, but don't steal any of the vehicles."

Eventually McDonald was released, Phelan said then he took his driver's license test in the same car he been arrested for stealing years ago.

"After awhile, he went back to Texas, enrolled into high school and got his GED," Phelan said.

He finished college in Texas and now works as a teacher's assistant.

"Jonathan's a grown man with

a family now," she added.

As she gets older, Phelan said there is something about taking care of each other as we go through life.

In the movie *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Phelan said there is a wonderful line where the

character Blanche Dubois says, "I've always depended on the kindness of strangers."

"There's something about being kind to strangers," Phelan said. "That I think filters through our whole lives and hopefully makes our lives worth living."



File photo

Anna Phelan

## Los Angeles County Jail Seeks Solutions for Overcrowding

**By Rahsaan Thomas**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Los Angeles County began seeking solutions to reduce overcrowding in its jails in 2011.

Several problems, including a dramatic dip in revenues and the state realignment program, have shifted many prisoners who would otherwise be bound for state prisons into the county jail.

An increase in parolees under county supervision also has caused overcrowding to become a "looming crisis" despite serious efforts to reduce the number of inmates by using electronic subpoenas, video arraignments and early disposition programs.

"To reduce the jail population and achieve system-wide savings, every criminal justice agency leader must commit to reducing unnecessary detention and incarceration in the interests of justice and the efficient use of taxpayer resources," according to a report by the Vera Institute of Justice.

Vera worked in conjunction with the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee to review policies and procedures, convene focus groups and meetings and collect and analyze data from several agencies within the county criminal justice system. In addition, Vera

conducted extensive interviews and site visits, plus reviewed the legal and research literature on topics germane to its goal.

In Vera's revised final report released in September 2011, the institute urged criminal justice agencies to collaborate in order to reduce overcrowding.

To accomplish this, law enforcement, the courts, prosecutors and probation officers must find a way to create consensus on how best to use the available jail space and find alternatives for the overflow. The report suggested that rewarding the efforts of the criminal justice to comply could encourage cooperation.

The report also recommended that the county must address several systematic problems to get defendants assessed and released faster, including refining the probation system and improving inter-agency communication and data-keeping systems.

An additional recommendation was that law enforcement agencies keep mentally ill, intoxicated and homeless people out of the criminal justice system, which can impede prisoner processing.

For all these recommendations to be successful, Vera advised, the agencies involved must work with a sense of urgency and commitment.

### Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

### Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison and jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

## 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 may 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 art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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# SPORTS

## San Rafael Pacifics Dominate San Quentin's All-Star Team

By San Quentin News Staff

On a perfect Saturday morning for America's favorite pastime, San Quentin's Field of Dreams wasn't so gracious to its inmate All-Star team as the San Rafael Pacifics had three big-scoring innings in a 17-3 victory.

"Don't let the score reflect the progress we've made as a prison baseball team," said

good thing for our club," said Operation Manager Hunter Harenstein. "That means we're doing our job by sending players up to higher levels of play."

The team's home stadium is Albert Park in San Rafael, where half of this season's 84 games will be played. "The Pacifics provide the local community with low-cost fun, in a family-friendly en-

vironment," said team General Manager Mike Shapiro.

Shapiro said he was impressed by the turnout, adding, "Looks like we have a bunch of fans at San Quentin."

About 300 prisoners jockeying for position shuffled around the Field of Dreams, wanting to get the best view of the game. As the spectators settled into place, they taunted and cheered players from both teams.

On-line radio station bggg101.com Boomerang broadcasted the game that Saturday night. "We're scheduled to broadcast all the Pacific games," said station owner David Winter.

Lt. Sam Robinson, San Quentin's public information officer, threw out the first pitch.

Both pitcher tossed a shut-out through four innings, during which the Pacifics only managed one hit off All-Star pitcher Jeff Dewey Dumont.

Pacifics starting pitcher, Logan Odom, played college ball at University of Southern California, was drafted by the Angels and played on their AA team. "It's great to play baseball with a bunch of guys who just love the game," he said.

Steve Dewtweiler of the Pacifics scored the first of six runs in the top of the fifth inning. "It was crazy -- all those fans screaming as I rounded third. It was fun," he said.

The next batter, infielder Darrick Hale, smacked a three-run homer.

Last season Hale batted .280 with five homers and 33 RBIs. "I'm just trying to be a team player," he said. "I wanted to make contact with the ball. He left a fastball right down the middle, and it just happened to go."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Ruben Harper at back catcher going for Darrick Hale's pop up ball

This is Hale's second season with the Pacifics. A southern California boy, he played at Compton Junior College and California State Los Angeles. The Reds originally drafted him.

Chase Fontaine followed Hale with his own homers.

A native of Florida, Fontaine played minor league ball for the Braves, the Devil Rays, and Royals. "I feel blessed to come here and compete with you guys. Every credit goes to the Big Man upstairs."

The San Quentin baseball players and spectators struck

up conversations with the outside guests, including the Pacifics' families, a cameraman from local television station KTVU, and bggg101.com radio Boomerang personalities.

"I used to play on a traveling baseball team, called The Travelers," prisoner Antonio Manning 51, told station owner Winter. "Even though we're getting smashed, it's fun just to come out and watch a game."

Harenstein said he feels honored to play against some

See Pacific's on page 20



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Opening ceremony at the beginning of the game

Giants head coach, Frankie Smith. "We represented a different side of incarcerated men than what the mainstream media portrays."

Eight players from San Quentin A's and eight from the San Quentin Giants made up the All-Star team roster.

"It was one of the best days I've had since incarcerated," said A's head coach John Parratt. "I feel my utility player, Nghiep K. Lam, represents what the A's are all about."

"I am thankful for the chance to play the game I love since childhood - baseball. I am proud to be one of the founding members of the San Quentin Athletics," Lam said. "Since the formation of the team in 2011, we had these goals: have a great time and play as one unit. Winning is good too."

The Pacifics is a professional baseball team is in its second season. It competes in a league consisting of a team in Vallejo, two teams in Hawaii, and four in Arizona. Last year the team went 36-24 and won the league championship.

Four members from that championship team returned to play this season. "That's a

environment," said team General Manager Mike Shapiro.

Shapiro said he was impressed by the turnout, adding, "Looks like we have a bunch of fans at San Quentin."

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Lt. Sam Rob-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

All-Star player Eli "Slugger" Sala swinging at one of Logan Odom pitches

## Kings' Close Win Over Bittermen

*'We got to attack more. Talk, move the ball around better'*

By Ruben Harper  
Contributing Sports Writer

As hundreds of prisoners cheered, the San Quentin Kings basketball team produced enough strategic onslaughts to defeat the outside team Bittermen's, 57-61.

On a bright, sunny Saturday morning, the Bittermen got within one point of the Kings after point guard Ted Saltveit, drained a three-pointer from the top of the key. However, with 3:40 seconds remaining in the game, the visitors' offense went flat.

Kings' point guard S. "Shakur" Pierce responded by tossing center P. "Strange" Walker a no-look pass inside the key. Walker made the easy three-foot turn-around, right-hand hook-shot, giving Pierce

an assist, and decreasing the Kings lead to 54-58.

"We have fouls to give," Saltveit said to his team during a timeout with a little less than a minute to go in the game. "We need to stop turning the ball over too."

The Kings took control of the game by changing their strategy during half time.

Coach Orlando "Duck" Harris told his team, "We got to attack more. Talk, move the ball around better, and get rebounds."

He said his defensive switches and balanced ball control made all the difference to their second half success.

Kings forward and Captain P. "Sweet Pea" Davidson came away with 11 points as his teams' second-highest scorer.

"We are looking to go un-

defeated this season because of our experiences together as a working team," said Davidson after the game. "We also have additional help from our big men like Strange and Thad Fleeton to give us control in the paint."

Leading his team with four blocks, eight rebounds and 16 points, Kings' center P. Walker said, "I should have been more explosive on offense. I should have had better footwork, and my and-ones went unfinished. I'll get better because my teammates and my son, 'Boom-Boom,' motivate me to do so."

"The Kings were just nailing their shots, especially, Sweet Pea and Strange," a Bittermen player explained after the game. "They controlled the paint."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Sweet Pea looking for an advantage over the defense

## Local Tennis Players Team Up Against Inside Tennis Team

By San Quentin News Staff

San Quentin's tennis squad, Inside Tennis Team, played matches with and against two local tennis players on a warm Saturday morning.

"In a sport that does not discriminate, Saturdays are special days for the Inside Tennis Team," said team member Raphael Calix.

It was the first time Jim Humes and Katharine Fisher played tennis inside a prison.

"We enjoy interacting with the community on this level," said commissioner James Taylor. "The entire communi-

ty, inside and outside, is welcomed to watch and or play this fun game any time during the week."

*"We used to scramble over rocks and gravel just to play tennis"*

He is a USTA Team player who competes against tennis teams throughout the state. "He came to San Quentin and made us feel like USTA Team play-

ers," said Calix.

Taylor restarted his tennis career about five years ago. He said after playing sports all his life, getting tennis back into his life was a natural fit.

Inside the Line players Paul Oliver and Calix played against the newcomers, Jim and Katharine, in the first game. Inside the Line won, 4-2.

In the second game, Ngoc Nguyen and Duong Nguyen played against Jim and Katharine; Inside the Line won, 4-2. The third game was Jason McGinnis and Raekuban Borel versus Dianna and

Jim, where the outside guests won, 4-2. The last match was a mixed double, where Taylor and Katharine met Calix and Dianna; Dianna's team won 4-3 in a tiebreaker.

Every Saturday during the season, sponsor Dianna finds the area to play against the San Quentin team. The season began March 9.

Inside the Lines is having its best start with a record of 3-0-1 against outside players and teams.

"We haven't played against any college teams yet," said Taylor. "We are expecting a

harder road ahead us."

Taylor has been commissioner since 2011, and has been playing with the team since 2005.

Team Captain Ronnie Mohamed has been playing on the Inside the Lines team since 2003.

"We used to play tennis on an uneven court," Mohamed said. "We used to scramble over rocks and gravel just to play tennis, but we had fun doing it." The court has since been improved.

Every Saturday morning, Coach DeNevi brings in outside tennis players.

## Pacifics' Disciplined Game Performance Facing the All-Stars

Continued from Page 19

men who seem to have turned their lives around. "I didn't expect this," he said. "You guys are completely different from

what we see on TV."

"I think Chris Deragon got a lot out of this game," said Giant's coach Smith.

"This game gave me an opportunity to be in a positive

place," said

Deragon. "The best play of the game was when Colman made that play at second. That was top-notch ESPN stuff." He added, "My fiancé had the chance to listen to this game, and that means a lot to me."

Boomerang owner Winter commented, "We'll also report on local high school sports and local musicians." He said he'd like to include a talk show to discuss local topics, adding there is also a shopping network featuring local stores.

"The Pacifics are a very good and disciplined team," said A's



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Group photo of the S.Q. All-Stars and the Pacifics posing on the Lower Yard Baseball Field



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Pacifics starting pitcher, Logan Odom

coach Parratt. "I asked them, 'If a guy's a former prisoner, could they work for the organization?' and they said yes."

"There are a lot of compas-

sionate people who come in prison to help us," said Smith. "Whether incarcerated or free, we all have the love of baseball."