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Photo by Sam Hearnes

Founders of The Last Mile (TLM), Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti, during Demo Day with the first graduating class

## Tech Executives Offer Advice For Inmate Entrepreneurs

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

People don't usually talk about Silicon Valley and the California prison system at the same time. However, on any given day, venture capitalists as well as business men and women right out of Silicon Valley come inside San Quentin to hear inmate ideas from the entrepreneurial program The Last Mile (TLM).

TLM teaches inmates how to develop their own business plans and how to pitch their

plan to venture capitalists, business executives, public safety personnel, and other interested parties.

The pitch, given during Demo Day, is also an opportunity for the inmates to network and assess the feasibility of ideas they think would solve a problem in the business world. The next Demo Day is planned for later this month.

To help facilitate the learning process in the months before Demo Day, TLM sponsors Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti invite business profes-

sionals inside the prison to give classes on topics such as brainstorming, how to build a company and what kind of

See *Tech Exec.* on Page 5

## Elderly Expected to Be One-Third Of Inmate Population by 2030



Photo courtesy of CDCR

'They (elderly prisoners) can't leave the facility, of course. They're considered on medical parole and assigned a parole agent'

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

There are approximately 2.3 million people imprisoned in the United States. Changing demographics reflect the senior citizen, baby boomer wave will deeply affect prisons.

Between 1995 and 2010 the number of prisoners aged 55 and older quadrupled, according to a 2012 Human Rights Watch study. By the year 2030 seniors are expected to account for a third of all prisoners.

Currently in California, state

government is sending aged and ailing prisoners to private nursing homes. In 2010 the state passed Penal Code 6267, a law to provide long-term care for ailing prisoners. The director of communication and legislation for the Correctional Health Care Services department, Joyce

Hayhoe, stated aging prisoners who have not been deemed a danger to society and needing 24-hour care are placed in private nursing homes under certain conditions.

"They can't leave the facility,

See *Elderly* on Page 8



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmate displays his unique crane-making talents

By Phoeun You  
Graphic Designer

Inside San Quentin's Interfaith Chapel, 15 convicted murderers and lifer inmates came together to fold hundreds of origami hearts for patients at Oakland's Children's Hospital.

The inmates' goal was to

uplift the children's hearts and make them feel loved and not forgotten on Valentine's Day.

At the end of the origami workshops, hundreds of stand-up heart-shaped origami were sent to the hospital and placed on the children's dinner trays on

See *Lifers* on Page 9

## Sheriff Expresses Concern Over Poverty Issues

By Ross Mirkarimi  
San Francisco Sheriff

Poverty in San Francisco is quietly growing unchecked. As one of the wealthiest cities in the country, San Francisco's budget for fiscal year 2012-13 of \$7.9 billion surpasses the budgets of 11 states.

No matter how robust our local economic recovery portends, an honest assessment about poverty will remain impoverished as long as City Hall relies on antiquated economic measures.

It's time to ditch our disproportionate reliance on federal standards and reassess how we calculate poverty in San Francisco.

A new poverty calculation developed by the Stanford Center on Poverty and the Public Policy Institute of California, the California Poverty Measure, expands the range of expenses and



Photo by S.F. Sheriff's office photo

San Francisco Sheriff  
Ross Mirkarimi

adjusts housing costs geographically. Under this more comprehensive analysis, the poverty rate

See *Sher. Mirkarimi* Page 4

From April 13 through 16, the American Correctional Association is scheduled to audit San Quentin. See back page for more information.

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**Father George Williams Speaks Of His San Quentin Experiences**

**By Gino Sevacos  
Journalism Guild Writer**

*The following is the first of a two-part interview with Father George Williams, the Catholic Chaplain for San Quentin.*

**How did you come to work at San Quentin?**

I had visited here a few times when Father Barber was the chaplain. At the time of those visits, I had no idea I'd ever be working here.

I came out here to talk with him about his programs here – to get some ideas to bring back to Massachusetts. I was impressed with the chapels here and the programs available.

I remember thinking how much I would like to work here. Then out of the blue in the summer of 2010, a Jesuit friend of mine in Los Angeles called and asked me if I would be interested in coming to San Quentin as a chaplain since Father Barber had by then decided to move on.

My immediate reaction was, "Of course!" And I joked with my community (who tend to be academics) that it was like getting a call from Harvard asking if I wanted a tenured position there. So it was really like an offer for the best job ever for me – and I jumped at the chance. The reaction back East was, "Oh, wow. San Quentin!"

My parent's reaction was simple: "Are you insane?" They didn't like the idea of their only son moving all the way out to California only to get shanked on his first day on the job (they watched too many "Lockdown" episodes).

So I was pretty excited and happy at the prospect of coming here – and a bit apprehensive of working on Death Row – not sure why. I guess I had visions of Hannibal Lecter or something. But the reality has been that I really enjoy working with the guys on Death Row and no one there is like Hannibal Lecter!

It wasn't like anyone had to twist my arm to move to the Bay Area either – it is beautiful here, and as much as I love the city of Boston, I haven't missed the weather back there. And I get back a few times a year to see people and spend time in Boston, so I don't get homesick.

Actually after four years now, this area is beginning to feel more and more like home. San Quentin certainly does.

I decided to drive out here when I moved – to really make it a kind of spiritual pilgrimage – driving across the country slowly, over a few weeks, staying with friends along the way – including a week at a monastery in Colorado – a place I really love.

So it was a grace-filled and smooth transition from East to West, and I haven't regretted it for a second. My hope is that I



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Father George Williams giving a sermon inside the Catholic Chapel

can now do 25-to-life here at San Quentin.

I can't think of anything I'd rather do than work here and I'm incredibly grateful that God has given me this opportunity to do so. My four years here so far have truly been the best years of my life, so far ... And that's in no small part to the men in blue here who make working here such a joy.

What was your vision?

I don't know if I had a clear vision about coming to San Quentin. I had been working in prison ministry for about 20 years. I started at Boston City Jail and slowly worked my way up to the state prison system as a chaplain in Massachusetts. While I have a deep love for this work, I found Massachusetts a pretty horrible system to work in as a chaplain. There was little in the way of rehabilitative programming in the state prisons. They were and are pretty bleak places.

I think my mental image of San Quentin was like most people on the East Coast have – a famous prison – Death Row, violent past, Johnny Cash and so on. It has a scary cache about it.

My vision for the Catholic Chapel here is that it be truly a house of God that people of all faiths (or no faith) can come to be spiritually fed, whatever their path.

How has being a Jesuit influenced ministry here?

One of the things that attract-

ed me to the Jesuits (the official title of the order is "The Society of Jesus") is that its members tend to be really smart men who have open minds and never stop learning.

Another thing that attracted me to the Jesuits was their emphasis on working with the poor and marginalized.

A quote that caught my attention early on was a statement they made about our faith: "The mission of the Society of Jesus today is the service of faith, of which the promotion of justice is an absolute requirement. For reconciliation with God demands the reconciliation of people with one another."

Looking back, I see how God has guided my choices – and led me to this work. The Christian churches haven't always responded enough to prison ministry – the work has to be an expression of the Gospel – to go where the church is not, to serve those who society has neglected or rejected.

It just so happened that as I began my life as a Jesuit, the U.S. was already beginning a tragic move toward mass incarceration. At no time have there ever been so many Americans locked up in jails and prisons – and the churches for the most part haven't mobilized to meet the needs of prisoners or those who work in prisons.

*Part Two of this interview will be published in June.*

**Journalism Guild of SAN QUENTIN**

Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism  
In collaboration with students from the

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
Graduate School of Journalism**

**BEHIND THE SCENES**  
The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

**We Want To Hear From You!**

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

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

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

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*From all staff and inmates who appreciate Lt. Graham's dedication to public service, "Have a speedy recovery. Get well soon."*

**Corrections:**

In February's edition Marin County Supervisor Kathrin Sears' name was misspelled in the headline and the story. We apologize for those mistakes.

# FCC Proposes New Regulations To Limit High Phone Costs

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed new regulations to curb excessive charges by the prison telephone industry.

The purpose of the proposed regulations, according to Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), is to "protect the families of incarcerated people from the predatory prison telephone industry."

In October 2014, the FCC called for feedback in an effort to ban kickbacks to prisons that award telephone contracts to service providers such as Securus, CenturyLink, ATN, Telmate and Global Tel\*Link (GTL).

The FCC reported GTL alone "has more than 1,900 correctional facility customers," according to its documents.

"The FCC's previous order said that companies aren't allowed to treat the kickbacks as part of the cost of doing business," PPI reported.

Other FCC proposals were to cap in-state and out-of-state calling rates, PPI reported.

"The previous FCC regulation capped only the rates for calls between states, which tend to be more expensive but also only make up about 20 percent of all calls from incarcerated people," PPI reported.

The new proposal, according to PPI, would make certain a family would not be subject to paying more to talk to a loved

one who is incarcerated just because that person is in the same state.

Aside from the proposal to stop kickbacks, PPI reported the FCC wanted feedback regarding placing caps, limits or a complete prohibition on "ancillary fees."

FCC documents cite such fees. For example, GTL charges a minimum fee of \$25 to set up a prepaid account for customers to receive collect calls from inmates. If the customer does not use the account and later requests a refund, GTL will charge a \$5 refund fee.

"If the account remains inactive for 180 days, the remaining funds become the property of GTL," the FCC reported. "The Prison Policy Initiative recommends 'banning all illegitimate fees.'"

"Our research found that fees drive up the phone bills families have to pay, so this step would make a huge difference for the more than 2 million kids with an incarcerated parent," PPI reported.

According to PPI, the FCC also requested more feedback on how to address other telecommunication services, like video visitation, that lack many of the same regulatory oversight as phone services.

The FCC is looking for "strategies (on how) to make the prison phone market more competitive, and increase access for individuals with disabilities," PPI reported. In addition, the

FCC is looking to see how it can apply the new regulations to existing contracts.

"Here at PPI, we were pleased to see that the FCC cited our research, presentations, petition submissions, and technical comments throughout their proposal to take a huge step forward," PPI said.

"The commission took long-overdue steps to provide relief to the millions of Americans paying unjust and unreasonable interstate inmate phone rates. These exorbitantly high rates discouraged phone calls and, at times, made it nearly impossible for inmates to maintain contact with their families, friends, and communities, to society's detriment," the FCC said.

In its Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the FCC said reforms to Inmate Calling Service (ICS) would benefit society by making it easier and cost-effective for inmates to stay in touch with their families and friends.

Citing an April 2014 study by the Department of Justice, the FCC found that two-thirds of the 400,000 inmates released over a five-year period were rearrested within three years; and 75 percent were rearrested within five years.

"As a nation, we need to take all actions possible to reduce these recidivism rates. Studies have shown that family contact during incarceration is associated with lower recidivism



Photo by Sam Heames

Tommy "Shakur" Ross calling home – many prisoners are unaware of high calling rates

rates," the FCC said.

The FCC acknowledged the disparity between Local Exchange Carriers that provide service to the public, and those, such as GTL, that provide ICS.

"While the commission prefers to promote competition to ensure rates are just and reasonable, it remains clear that in the inmate-calling service market, as currently structured, competition is failing to do so," the FCC said.

According to the FCC, companies that provide ICS have been "characterized by some as subject to 'reverse competition,' forcing providers to compete

not on price or service quality but on the size of site commission payments."

In the FCC document citing consumer disclosures, it sought comments on "how to ensure that rates and fees are more transparent to consumers."

The regulatory agency also sought comments on how service providers could better notify customers regarding ICS options that are available to them and the cost of those options.

According to the FCC, "One ICS provider underscored the importance of 'educating the consumer.'"

## FCC Propone Nuevas Regulaciones Para Limitar El Alto Costo de Llamadas de Telefono

Por Kevin D. Sawyer  
Presidente del Gremio  
Periodístico

La Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones (FCC) propuso nuevas regulaciones para frenar los cargos excesivos por la industria de teléfonos en la prisión.

El propósito de las regulaciones propuestas, de acuerdo a la Póliza de Iniciativa de la prisión (PPI), es "proteger las familias de personas encarceladas de la industria depredadora de teléfonos que opera en la prisión."

En Octubre del 2014, la FCC busco recaudar información, entre otras cosas, en un esfuerzo para prohibir a las prisiones las facilidades (mordidas) que conceden contratos a proveedores de servicios como Securus, CenturyLink, ATN, Telmate y Global Tel\*Link (GTL).

La FCC reporto que la GTL por si sola "tiene mas de 1,900 clientes en las instalaciones correccionales," de acuerdo a los documentos de la FCC.

"La orden previa de la FCC mencionó que a las compañías no se les permite tratar las facilidades (mordidas) que se les dan como parte de el costo al hacer negocios," reporto la PPI.

Otras de las propuestas de la FCC fueron la de establecer un limite a los cargos de llamadas

dentro del estado y fuera del estado, reporto la PPI.

La regulación previa de la FCC solamente limitaba las tarifas de llamadas entre estados, lo cual tiende a ser mas costoso pero también únicamente compensa cerca del 20 porciento de todas las llamadas de personas encarceladas," reporto la PPI.

De acuerdo a la PPI, la nueva propuesta se asegurara de que la familia no este expuesta a pagar mas al hablar con su ser querido quien este encarcelado solamente porque tal persona esta en el mismo estado.

Aparte de la propuesta de parar las facilidades (mordidas), La PPI reporto que la FCC busco recaudar información con respecto a situar restricciones, limites o una prohibición completa en la "cuota auxiliar."

Los documentos de la FCC cito tales cuotas. Por ejemplo, la GTL cobra una cuota mínima de \$25 para crear una cuenta prepagada para que los clientes recibian llamadas por cobrar de presos. Si el cliente no utiliza la cuenta y después solicita un reembolso, la GTL cobrara \$5 por cuota de reembolso.

"Si la cuenta permanece inactiva por 180 días, los fondos restantes pasan a ser propiedad de la GTL," reporto la FCC. "La Póliza Inicial de la Prisión recomienda la 'pro-

hibición a toda cuota ilegal.'"

"Nuestra investigación encontró que las cuotas aumentan las facturas de teléfono que las familias tienen que pagar, por lo tanto este paso hará una gran diferencia para mas de 2 millones de niños con padres encarcelados," reporto la PPI.

De acuerdo a la PPI, la FCC también solicito más auto-crítica sobre como abordar otros servicios de telecomunicaciones, como visitas por video, que carece de las mismas normas que rigen a los servicios de teléfono.

La FCC esta buscando "estrategias en como hacer que el mercado de teléfono de la prisión sea mas competitivo, y aumentar el acceso para individuos con discapacidades," la PPI reporto. Además, la FCC esta observando como se puede aplicar las nuevas regulaciones a contratos existentes.

"Aquí en la PPI, estamos satisfechos al mirar que la FCC cito nuestra investigación, presentaciones, peticiones y comentarios técnicos a través de todas las propuestas para dar un gran paso hacia delante," La PPI menciona.

"La comisión como los pasos largamente atrasados para proveer alivio a los millones de americanos que pagan tarifas de teléfono injustas e irrazonables por llamadas interestatales

que los presos efectúan. Esas tarifas bastante altas desaniman el hacer llamadas por teléfono, y algunas veces, es casi imposible para los presos mantener contacto con sus familias, amigos y comunidades, lo cual es perjudicial para la sociedad," la FCC menciona.

En su Segundo Aviso de la Propuesta Reglamentaria, la FCC dijo que las reformas del Servicio de Llamadas del Preso (ICS), beneficiara a la sociedad al hacer más fácil y accesible el costo efectivo de las llamadas para que los presos se mantengan en contacto con sus familias y amigos.

Citando un estudio por el Departamento de Justicia en Abril del 2014, la FCC encontró que en un periodo de cinco años dos-tercios de los 400,000 presos puestos en libertad fueron arrestados nuevamente en menos de tres años; y el 75 por ciento fueron arrestados en menos de cinco años.

"Como nación, necesitamos tomar toda acción posible para reducir estas tasas de reincidencia. Estudios han mostrado que el contacto con familiares durante el encarcelamiento esta asociado con una tasa de reincidencia baja," la FCC menciona.

La FCC reconoce la desigualdad entre Empresas de Intercambio Local que proveen servicio al público, y aquellas, tales

como la GTL, que proveen el Servicio de Llamadas al preso (ICS).

La FCC anuncio que, "Mientras la comisión prefiere promover la competición para asegurarse que las tarifas sean justas y razonables, se mantiene claro que en el mercado de servicio de llamada al preso, como se encuentra actualmente estructurada, la competición a fallado en llevarlo a cabo."

De acuerdo a la FCC, las compañías que son proveedoras de ICS han sido "caracterizadas por algunos como sujetas a 'revertir la competición' forzando a los proveedores a competir no por precios o calidad de servicios, sino por el tamaño de las comisiones."

En el documento de la FCC, citando las revelaciones al consumidor, busco comentarios en "como asegurar que las tarifas y cobros sean más claros para los consumidores."

La agencia reguladora también busco comentarios sobre como los proveedores de servicios podrían mejorar la forma de notificar a los clientes con respecto a las opciones del ICS que están a su disposición y sobre el costo de esas opciones.

De acuerdo a la FCC, "Un proveedor de la ICS subrayo la importancia de la 'educación al consumidor.'"

—Traducción Marco Villa

# Searching for Accuracy In the Recidivism Rate

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

The states should move away from collecting and using recidivism data as a single number that uniformly defines success or failure in sentencing and corrections policy, urged a recent report by the Urban Institute.

The report points out that recidivism, the most commonly used definition of correctional success, is "most frequently reported as a single statewide rate, which is too imprecise to draw meaningful conclusions and insufficient for assessing the impact of changes to policy and practice."

"Making recidivism a meaningful performance measure

demands that states employ a wide range of reoffending metrics. States should shift their thinking about recidivism from reporting one number to developing a portfolio of outcome measures that assess the impact of correctional interventions," the report said.

The report, titled "Improving Recidivism as a Performance Measure," analyzed the movements of the states that participate in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative to change the way they approach criminal justice policy development and adoption. These states "engage in a data-driven process that targets the drivers of the correctional population and prison costs," and as a result, "more than 20 states have enacted reforms to

reduce correctional spending so that a portion of the savings can be reallocated to programs that improve public safety," the report found.

Citing various data from the states, the report outlined four steps that it suggests are necessary to make recidivism a meaningful performance measure:

The first is to define recidivism using multiple measures of success.

Recidivism reduction is the responsibility of multiple agencies and many different actors. States "should think of recidivism as a series of different performance indicators that must be carefully calibrated to the outcome they are intended to measure."

In addition to return to custody, states should also include desistance, time to failure, crime severity and behavior change as indicators of success.

Second, states should develop protocols to ensure data collections are consistent, accurate and timely.

The current reporting on recidivism by the states is inconsistent at best. "Ongoing data collection and analysis is necessary for any performance measure."

In the data collection process, states should assign unique identifiers and link data across criminal justice agencies, develop long-term records, collect contextual information and update changes in status.

Third, analyses of data should account for the underlying composition of the population.

Recidivism will be a more useful performance measure when we can compare recidivism outcomes across populations. As a necessary precursor, statistical techniques that

account for the risk level of the population being studied must be employed for this comparison.

"Risk-adjusted" recidivism rates – expected recidivism rates compared with actual observed rate of recidivism – should be used in analyzing recidivism across populations, such as, for example, parolees and max-outs.

Last, states should package the findings on recidivism to maximize its impact, and get the results into the hands of decision makers.

Recidivism analysis "has to be packaged succinctly and disseminated to the right audience to influence the direction of policy and practice.

"To maximize the impact of recidivism as a performance measure, states should provide annual information to decision makers in all three branches of the government, report a variety of recidivism information to measure success and summarize findings for policymakers."

## Undocumented Immigrants on the Rise Since September 11

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

The excessive incarceration of undocumented immigrants and other non-citizens currently residing within the U.S. border has accelerated since the 9-11 terrorist attacks, the Justice Policy Journal reports.

Criminalizing immigration has rapidly accelerated since September 2001, the study for the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice concluded.

"The United States has developed a prison-industrial complex," the report said.

Proponents contend that the private sector can more efficiently provide services than the government, leading to cost containment and the reduction of the federal budget and debt," the study stated.

The sentiment toward undocumented immigrants has soured since 2001, according to the study prepared by Alissa R. Ackerman and Rich Furman of the University of Washington and Meghan Sacks of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

The detention of immigrants and noncitizen residents in the United States is nothing new, nor is the use of incarceration as the primary means to punish its citizens, the study says.

The authors report undocumented immigrants are a primary target of the prison industrial complex.

"The immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has partnered with the private prison industry to detain immigrants. Some scholars have argued that this movement is part of a 'new penology' where immigrants are determined to be a dangerous and risky segment of the population that must be controlled," the study said.

Private prison companies obtain the most revenue from state prison contracts and it stands to reason that as state prison population decrease, so too will profits. To this end, it is essential that streams of profit must continue to flow. Immigrant detention and the criminalization of immigration will provide that

revenue, the researchers claim.

According to the study, "Approximately 12 percent of the federal prison population is currently comprised of individuals convicted of or awaiting trial for immigration offenses. There are conflicting reports as to how many immigrant detainees are housed in private facilities."

ICE reports "17 percent of individuals detained by them are housed in contract, or private facilities in 2012." However, an Associated Press report from the same year suggests nearly half of immigrant detainees were held by private prison corporations, the report noted.

There were around 2.3 million people incarcerated in the U.S. today. According to researchers, this does not include roughly 33,000 people who were detained every day by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Ackerman, Furman and Sacks defined a new penology as the management, surveillance and control of a specific group of people. It's about identifying and managing these disobedient groups.

A religiously and ethnically constituted group of Muslim and Arab men has allegedly victimized the American public. "As a result, law enforcement tactics such as racial profiling and preventive detention that would have shocked the nation 20 years ago are tolerated and even condoned as a 'necessary evil' for the protection of national security," according to the study.

The study asserts that rehabilitation is no longer the model of the criminal justice system. This was evidenced by the increase and disparities that led to a public movement of harsher sentencing legislation.

New sentencing laws resulted in a noticeable shift from rehabilitation to retribution and incapacitation. In their opinion, danger management is a part of the move to a new penology.

"These laws have provided the political climate to detain more people. The number of individuals detained has risen exponentially over the last 30 years and corresponds with the

rise of the overall U.S. prison population," the study said.

Three major transformations accompanied this shift to the new penology. According to their study, "the language of clinical diagnosis has been replaced by the language of probability and risk; the goal of reducing recidivism is abandoned for an increasingly efficient system of control; and the strategy of targeting individuals has been replaced by a focus on aggregate populations of offenders."

The authors of the study wrote, "Selective incapacitation policies moved to the forefront of the criminal justice system in the 1980s. These policies seek to identify and incapacitate high rate offenders at the height of

their offending in order to reduce crime"

The new penology is present in immigration policies, the study claims. "The priorities of the immigration system have shifted and can be seen by the growth of immigration law enforcement, the targeting of immigrants with criminal background for law enforcement, the increasing percentage of noncitizens being detained, and the paradoxical growth of admittance into and deportation from the United States at the same time."

The study adds, "The new penology corresponds with and reinforces one of the most profound changes in U.S. incarceration and most importantly in

the incarceration and detention of immigrants: the privatization of prisons. This phenomenon is apparent in the accelerated growth of the private prison industry."

This rise in the prison population "obviously includes the undocumented, but may also include refugees, asylum seekers and even U.S. citizens that appear to meet some physical or ethnic criteria," the study reads.

Instead of being well informed about the realities of immigration, policy and reform, the American public has been appeased by the new penology and remains relatively silent on the realities of detection, detention and deportation, the study concludes.

## Sheriff Mirkarimi Addresses Neglected Issues in San Francisco

*Continued from Page 1*

for California is 22 percent, and for San Francisco, 23.4 percent.

According to analysts with San Francisco's office of controller, even with various local safety net adjustments, for a family of four renting in San Francisco, poverty registers at an annual income of \$36,349.

The biggest takeaway from a discussion about poverty has little to do with the data itself - it's the fact that we know what to do but are not doing it.

This reality was brought into sharper focus Jan. 10 (2014) for a growing underclass exiting our County Jail. I had the honor of presiding over the San Francisco Sheriff's Department Five Keys Charter High School graduation. We are the first city or county in the nation to provide a high school in its jails, a school with a union faculty.

More than 80 women and men, ages 19 to 59, about half in custody and half formerly incarcerated, were feted for obtaining their high school diploma or GED. The graduates' stories of overcoming adversity and righting their wrongs were incredible.

One man concurrently mastered his English as a second language certificate and his GED. A mother overcame her dislike for algebra to test exceptionally well toward her diploma.

It was their day, and ours, as I shared: "Orange is the new black when you don our cap and gown." But beyond the milestone of a high school diploma, we're reminded that unless there is affordable access to City College or another similar institution, or vocational training aimed at gainful employment, coupled with life skills for community re-entry, then we're looking at recycling another generation through poverty.

Because 35 to 40 percent of our inmate population are parents, their incapacity to reach economic sustainability traps their children in a similar cycle.

San Francisco is in the unique position of having one of the most under-crowded jail systems in the country. Progress on tackling high recidivism rates is on the upswing — thanks to the collaboration among our criminal justice partners. However, preparing inmates for the real world is so undermined by the high

cost of living in the San Francisco Bay Area that many will return to their families or communities discouraged by their inability to make a decent living or find respectable housing.

Before and after they exit jail in pursuit of a job, we'll teach the soft and hard skills: Thrift. Determination.

Invariably, though, we're invigorating a growing class of working poor if we neglect to address the real cost of living and its resulting measure of poverty in San Francisco.

Here is what we can do (about) poverty in San Francisco:

- Take the politics out of raising the local minimum wage, and stepladder increases over 10 years.
- Establish an official county poverty rate and methodology to determine it for San Francisco.
- Develop a city master plan on ending poverty and retaining class diversity.
- Produce a meaningful response to the mass exodus of San Francisco's Black population and to the prospective impact on the Latino population.

# FBI's Data of Arrest Records Creates Problem For Anyone Who Was Cleared of Charges

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Nearly one out of every three American adults is on the FBI's master criminal database, and that can create problems for those who were cleared of charges.

"Over the last 20 years, authorities have made more than a quarter of a billion arrests." Between 10,000 and 12,000 new names are added every day, according to a Wall Street Journal report.

"Many people who have never faced charges, or have had charges dropped, find that a lingering arrest record can ruin their chance to secure employment, loans and housing," the Aug. 18 report said.

Cases of mistaken arrests are also forwarded to the FBI. In many instances, only half of the records with the agency are fully updated. Arrest information is forwarded to the FBI when a case is thrown out locally, but not necessarily updated there.

"There is a myth that if you are arrested and cleared that it has no impact," said Georgetown law professor Paul Butler. He believes these problems linger for years.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, law enforcement agencies cracked down on urban areas. More than 100,000 officers were put on the streets to combat an out-of-control crime rate.

"The wave of arrests has been fueled in part by unprecedented federal dollars funneled to local police departments and new policing tactics that condoned arrests for even the smallest offenses," the newspaper reported.

In 2011 the government spent \$212 billion on law enforcement at the local and state level, "including judicial, police and corrections cost, according to the most recent estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau," the report revealed.

"You've got these large numbers of people now who are stigmatized," said Jack Levin, co-director of the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict at Boston Northeastern University. "The impact of so many arrests is catastrophic."

"We made arrests for minor infractions that deterred the more serious infractions down the road," said James Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, which represents about 335,000 police officers. "We don't apologize for that." He claims innocent people are alive because of actions taken by law enforcement officers during that time.

Researcher at the University of South Carolina tracked 7,335 randomly selected people in their 20s. Forty percent of the males interviewed were arrested before age 23. "The rate was highest for blacks at 49 percent, 44 percent for Hispanics and 38

percent for whites."

They found one in five women had been arrested at least once by the age of 23.

Statistics show "47 percent of those arrested weren't convicted. In more than a quarter of cases, subjects weren't even formally charged."

In one case study, a Hispanic male was arrested and charged with sexually assaulting two young girls. The prosecutor's office dropped the charges because he was the wrong person. He had to hire a lawyer to seek formal expungement after learning "the burden was on him to clear his record."

Internet websites and background check businesses are charging fees to correct public records and remove mug shots and bogus charges. Recently, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a new bill making it illegal for websites to charge state residents to have their mug shots and arrest photos removed, the report said.

"According to 2012 survey by the Society for Human Resource Management, 69 percent of employers conduct criminal background checks on all job applicants. Fewer than that — about 58 percent — allow candidates to explain any negative results of a check," the newspaper stated.

Some employers worry about turning down applicants because of criminal records. Business owner Mike Mitternacht

said he could be open to a discrimination claim. "I have to do the background checks and take my chances. It's a lose-lose situation."

In 2009, Precious Daniels participated in a protest against Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan during a debate over the new health care law. She was arrested with only a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge and released on \$50 bail. The charge was subsequently dropped.

Daniels didn't anticipate any future problems until she applied for a job with the Census Bureau in 2010. Several days later, she received notification that a routine background check uncovered a "red flag."

According to the report, "For her application to proceed, the Census Bureau informed her she would need to submit fingerprints and gave her 30 days to obtain court documents proving her case had been resolved without a conviction."

Clearing her name was no easy task. "From what I was told by the courthouse, they didn't have a record," Daniels said. According to the report, "she didn't get the job."

"Today, Ms. Daniels is part of a class-action lawsuit against the Census Bureau alleging that tens of thousands of African-Americans were discriminated against because of the agency's use of arrest records in its hiring process," it was reported.

Over 850,000 applicants received similar letters to the one sent to Daniels, said Adam Klein, the New York plaintiff attorney.

The Census Bureau and the Department of Justice representatives denied these allegations. They allege the plaintiffs' method for analyzing hiring data was "unreliable" and "statistically invalid."

In 2012, John Keir and his wife were arrested for criminal mischief for scratching someone's car with a key. The report said, "They were found not guilty at trial."

The 35-year-old Keir was hired by Regions Bank as an \$85,000-a-year information security official in 2014. The bank sent his fingerprints to the FBI as part of a criminal background check. Several weeks later, he was fired, the story said.

Keir "says his firing resulted after failing to disclose his recent arrest record as well as a number of traffic violations during his teens that had branded him as a 'youthful offender' in Alabama. He says he didn't lie on his application, and only recalls being asked about any criminal convictions."

Arrest records don't always disappear over the years. According to the report, "An arrest record can only be removed if the local court system notifies the FBI that it should take it out of the file."

## Tech Executives Provide Advice Through The Last Mile Program

Continued from Page 1

ideas attract venture capitalists.

### BRAINSTORMING

Last winter when Tina Seelig, author of *What I Wish I Knew When I was 20*, visited the men, she talked about how to brainstorm for business ideas.

"If you want to succeed, don't have a fixed mindset," Seelig said. "Work on changing your position and perspective. Once the right questions are asked, the answers will come."

She encouraged the men to leave their comfort zones, suggesting that new experiences may lead them to new passions. Passion, according to Seelig, is the key to a successful business.

She also encouraged the group to see every problem as an opportunity.

Seelig's tips to inmates included standing up while brainstorming, focusing on one topic, considering different points of view, and using small teams to allow better communication between participants.

### BUILDING A COMPANY

For the last 25 years, Michelle Messina has worked with start-ups in Silicon Valley.

"The job you're embarking on is really, really hard. The best thing you can do is build a

support team," she said during her visit. "What's so unique about Silicon Valley is its diversity in culture. There are 120 different languages spoken and about 49 percent of the people are foreign born."

Messina told the students what to consider when building a company.

"You must think about validation in the marketplace. Who is your customer base? You must be solving a problem in the marketplace organically. It's about knowing your company, and making contact with that customer, and making the sell in person. Are you solving a problem?"

Messina then listened to some of the men present their ideas and gave advice on where improvements could be



Michelle Messina

made. Afterward Parenti evaluated each man's viability as to whether his plan was up to par

for the March Demo day.

If the plan was up to par, he was in the Starting Line Up category. If his plan was good, but needed work, he was On the Bench. If the idea itself needed work, he was Not Suiting Up.

Of the 19 participants, five were in the Starting Line Up, five were On the Bench and four were Not Suiting Up. The other five participants did not present their ideas that day.

### PITCHING IDEAS

On the day venture capitalist Dave McClure came to San Quentin, he listened to some pitches, then said, "When you're pitching to a venture capitalist, talk about the problem, not the solution."

"What's the same about everybody is the optimism of

wanting to succeed," McClure added. "However, out of 100 companies, maybe five to 10 might actually work."

McClure explained what it means for a business idea to "pivot."

"Pivot means that whatever you built did not work, and you need to change something in your product," McClure said. "When you pivot, there may be some part of it that is not working and needs to be changed."

McClure started an investment group called 500 Start Ups. He said the idea is to invest in many companies in order to answer some of questions about what it takes to run a company.

"I may not be in the same position as you guys, but I consider myself an underdog," McClure said, referring to the ups and downs of his life.

"A lot of people we're going to invest in aren't going to make it. However, even the ones who don't make it are still a part of the community as long as people feel that they've got a shot," he said.

Referring to how the inmates' pitches sounded, Redlitz said, "You guys were good, but you have to work toward great."

"People in Silicon Valley believe they can do great things. Sometimes, they give advice, sometimes they give money, sometimes they tell you you're full of it, but that's helpful, too," said McClure.

"Most of my success comes from not giving up," McClure added.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Thanks to The Last Mile team and supporters, Demo Day in 2014 was a success

# Figuring Out I Was in Fact a Gang Member

By Arnulfo T Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

## EDITORIAL

At 23 Kim (Al-Ameen) McAdoo of Oakland was arrested for the murder of Tracy Smith and attempted murder of Brian Cole. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

In a book review for Pat-ten College, McAdoo reveals himself as a reckless young gang member who terrorized his community. He did this by selling drugs and carrying guns that led to a turf war, which took the life of an innocent young woman. She had nothing to do with violence, but made the fatal mistake of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The author describes three characteristics of "lifestyle addictions" relating to obsession, compulsion, and progression.

McAdoo's essay gave me a better understanding of criminal addictions and the definition of a gang member.

McAdoo defied his mother's authority; he rebelled against his teachers; he was angry and out of control. At age 19, he found himself in jail with his father. It would be the last time he saw his father, who was in and out of prison himself.

In 2012, McAdoo's own daughter was seriously injured in a drive-by shooting, which devastated him. He was inspired to create a program through The Last Mile, titled Public Outcry, designed to give a voice to communities affected by violence.

Two months ago, McAdoo was found suitable for parole after 19 years. He is presently awaiting Governor Brown's mandatory review before he can be released.

This is how he told his story about his struggles and involvement with the street life,

where he lived when he was a young man.

"For many years I never identified myself as a gang member. I figured the definition of a gang member was one who is jumped into a gang and represented the gang color, red for Bloods or blue for Crips. I hung out with a group of individuals in a neighborhood that we claimed as our territory and where we engaged in illegal activity: selling drugs representing a particular neighborhood. [Our] understanding of a gang member was one who identify themselves as a Crip or Blood and who participated in drive-by shootings, as well as beating of other gang members that didn't represent the same color or neighborhood.

"Growing up in Oakland, I didn't recognize that drug dealers are the same as gang members. Individuals who sold drugs identified themselves by the neighborhood where they lived. There wasn't no initiations like the Crips and Bloods. The conflicts between drug dealers were basically over another group attempting to sell drugs in a territory or neighborhood that was established by other drug dealers. This conflict usually led to someone being beat up, robbed, shot or killed.

"After reflecting on my previous criminal lifestyle and reading CGA (Criminal Gangs Anonymous) literature, I came to the realization that there wasn't much of a difference between Crips, Bloods or drug dealers. They all represented one and the same criminal lifestyle. CGA's definition of a gang member is, 'Two or more

individuals with or without a group name, who associate with each other following destructive beliefs and whose behavior, actions and habits are centered around illegal activity.' This definition provided me the understanding that I was a gang member in the sense of one who hung out with other individuals in a neighborhood where we sold drugs and shared the same criminal mindset.

"Ultimately I became obsessed with my past disrupted lifestyle. The longer I continued to sell drugs, the more I became powerless over my addiction to make money illegally, which was a direct result of my criminal thinking. Also my addiction to this criminal lifestyle caused me to justify my actions by ignoring the fact that I was destroying the lives of addicts and the community of Oakland. CGA calls this 'Compulsion' behavior.

"Eventually, my life became unmanageable. I started carrying a gun after being robbed, beat up and shot at by other drug dealers. I adopted a retaliatory mentality and a distorted belief that it was necessary to protect myself and my so-called drug territory from other drug dealers. Over time, I progressed out of control to the point of going from selling drugs to murder and attempted murder."

"Furthermore, in CGA's 12 steps, I found step 7 the most interesting. It states, 'We honestly recognized our shortcomings whenever bad habits surfaced, promptly correcting our thinking and actions.'

"In the Breaking Barriers program, I learned how to

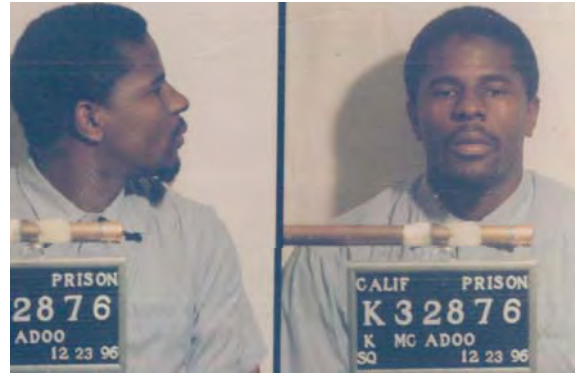


Photo provided by Kim McAdoo

23 year old Kim (Al-Ameen) McAdoo

identify negative thinking patterns that I adopted through distorted beliefs and values. I began examining my old belief system where I once thought that it was OK to carry guns, sell drugs, and break the law. I no longer think this way because I harmed many others due to my out-of-control criminal lifestyle.

"In regard to step 10, 'we continued daily to take a personal inventory of ourselves, and whenever wrong, had the courage to honestly admit it.' This step reminds me of my responsibility of being aware of my thinking and feelings. If I am thinking positively then my speech and actions toward others will follow with peaceful and non-threatening behavior. My attitude and perceptions are what determine the outcome of my actions. If by chance I am at fault, I own up to the mistake in behavior or actions and correct the situation immediately. By conducting a daily self-inventory, it keeps me conscious of my thoughts, words and actions and from relapsing back into a lifestyle of crime.

"In conclusion, through the CGA literature I gained an un-



Photo by Sam Heames

McAdoo: During 2013 Pat-ten University graduation

derstanding of what makes an individual a gang member. How the components of obsession drove me into the compulsion stage of my addiction to criminal thinking, to where my life progressed out of control. This information has given me the skills to address my previous gang and drug-dealing addicted lifestyle."

Upon release, McAdoo intends to enroll in San Francisco State University.

## TRUST Food Sale Satisfies Inmates' Taste Buds

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Almost 600 inmates eagerly lined up for the fundraiser food sale put on by the members of the San Quentin TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training).

For the first time in nearly a year and a half Project WHAT! and TRUST are designed to help inmates prepare for reentering society upon release.

The option to purchase a 10-piece bucket of *Kentucky Fried Chicken*, an extra-large pizza, freshly baked cookies, and assorted other treats was back on the table for the first time in a year and a half.

Asked on the Line surveyed those in attendance with a few questions: "Which was the one food item that you were most happy to see on the food sale list? What did you like about the food sale? What food item would you like to see on a future food sale?"

Richard Zorns was happy to see *Kentucky Fried Chicken*. "I like both 'Original' and 'Crispy,'" said Zorns. When asked what he liked about the food sale, he replied, "I was just

### Asked On The Line

happy that we were having a food sale."

For many of the men who stood in line, a food sale meant a tasty alternative, such as pepper jack cheese, honey nut cheerios, and tortilla chips.

Rich Morris wasn't able to buy anything, but his cellmate shared some food with him. "I like the opportunity to eat something different other than state food or canteen items," said Morris.

Evan O'Leary was happy that the TRUST food sale offered one of his favorite desserts. "What I liked most about the food sale was that I got my red velvet cake, and I would like to see red velvet cake in future sales," said O'Leary.

There were varying opinions about what should be sold in future food sales.

Darion Branch said he'd like to see hot chocolate on the food sale menu. Other suggestions included cheesecake, rotisserie chicken and *Carl's Jr.* hamburgers.

TRUST Fellows operated the food sale and received much praise for their efficiency.

"What I liked most about the TRUST food sale was the speed of the delivery. It was good to have food sales back," said Sam Johnson, chairman of the Men's Advisory Council, who was invited to observe the operation of the food sale.

Randy Maluenda, another TRUST Fellow, was also happy about the *KFC* and efficient service but wanted to see two-liter cola sold at a future food sale.

TRUST Vice-Chairman Orlando Harris, another red velvet cake fan, said, "Our food sale ran really quick, but I would like to see fruit and nut medley in a future food sale."

Fundraising food sales are conducted by the finance committee of San Quentin TRUST and headed by the TRUST executive treasurer.

TRUST Fellow Phil Senegal, a senior member of the finance committee, was in charge of processing the West Block food

sale slips. He was glad to see large bags of tortilla chips on the menu. "Our food sale was efficient, and in the future I will suggest we sell pork ribs, pulled pork and pork carnitas," said Senegal.

Christopher Scull, a new TRUST Fellow, participated in a food sale for the first time. "I liked that we sold *KFC*, and I was impressed with the level of cooperation in our group. In the future, I would like our group to sell the Costco muffins," said Scull.

Valeray Richardson, the senior TRUST Fellow in charge of North Block processing, commented, "I was happy that we sold '*KFC Crispy*.' We ran a smooth food sale, but in the future I hope we sell strawberry cheesecake."

Alexei Ruiz, the TRUST Fellow in charge of H-Unit processing, said, "Of course, I was happy we sold *KFC*, and I had fun working this sale. I enjoyed doing it. In the future, I hope we can bring back avocados and onions."

Executive Treasurer Juan Arballo was the TRUST Fellow in charge of the food sale, and his leadership was key to the suc-

cess of the sale. More than 626 slips were collected and \$36,297 in sales resulted in a net profit of over \$8,500. Centerforce and Project WHAT! will each receive about \$3,000, and \$2,500 will go toward a charity of the warden's choosing. "I am happy with how it ran," said Arballo. "I was trained by secretary Angelo Falcone. I was glad we sold the red velvet cake, and I look forward to seeing strawberry cheesecake."

March is the second of seven months with 31 days, after January. In 2015, March has five Sundays, five Mondays, and five Tuesdays. Daylight Saving Time began Sun., Mar. 8. The vernal equinox is on Fri., Mar. 20. Saint Patrick's Day is on Tues., Mar. 17, Saint Joseph's Day is on Thurs., Mar. 19, the Annunciation of the Lord is on Wed., Mar. 25, and Palm Sunday is on Sun., Mar. 29; California celebrates Cesar Chavez Day on Tues., Mar. 31. March is Irish-American Heritage Month, Women's History Month, American Red Cross Month, National Frozen Food Month, and National Talk with Your Teen about Sex Month.

# Symposium Focuses on Giving Young Offenders a Better Chance

By Kid CAT Speaks

Movie producer Scott Budnick urges politicians, lawyers, lawmakers, criminal justice advocates, and prison officials to support sound laws to “prevent our youth from being thrown away and forgotten.”

Focusing on young men and women who have been tried and sentenced as adults, Budnick says they should be given an opportunity to educate themselves and positively transform their lives. “They deserve a second chance and should be able to earn parole,” he said. “We must all come together as a society. We can no longer fail them.”

Budnick is founder of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) and current board member of the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

ARC is an advocacy group that “seeks to reduce crime, decrease the use of incarceration, improve the outcomes of the formerly incarcerated, and increase investment in the people and communities most impacted by crime and incarceration,” its program overview reads.

The BSCC’s mission includes improving “public safety through cost-effective, promising, and evidence-based strategies to manage statewide criminal and juvenile justice populations,” its quarterly progress report reads.

Budnick recently came to a symposium at San Quentin State Prison and met with inmates who began their sentences at a young age.

He listened to inmates talk about the impact of recent legislation that prevents prison officials from sending the youngest inmates to the most violent prisons. They also discussed other legislation that gives inmates who began their sentences as juveniles a chance to have their sentences reviewed after serving between 15 and 25 years.

“This is a unique opportunity for the men to open up about their lives to people involved in making policy choices,” said

## Kid CAT Speaks!

Elizabeth Calvin, senior advocate, Children’s Rights Division, at Human Rights Watch.

Inmate Miguel Quezada, 33, incarcerated since the age of 16, originally had a parole hearing in the year 2040 but now is set for a new hearing in 2023.

“Here I was 18 in a Level 4 (prison) with 40 years in front of me; hope was hard to come by,” Quezada said. “The doubt was always there in the back of my mind. ‘Why try? I am never getting out.’ I refused to give in to that thought. I made a decision to educate myself and become a better person no matter what the future held. But changing my life required doing the personal work and support. I still must earn my place in society.”

Recounting his personal experience of being transferred to a Level 4 maximum security at the age of 19, Tommy Winfrey emphasized the potential of rehabilitating offenders and increasing public safety.

“I went to the most violent prison in the state. There were no programs — only constant violence and lockdowns. My first day on the yard, someone was stabbed. I was surrounded by killers, men who wanted me to become one too.”

The legislation that prevents younger offenders from being sent to the most violent prisons will take effect in July. The legislation, AB 1276, acknowledges that offenders under the age of 22 have a great capacity to rehabilitate, provided the availability of programs and a safe environment.

“You would think that if you sit in a cell 23 hours a day you would think about your crime, but that is not the way it works. San Quentin is different because of its programs. Giving a young inmate the opportunity to come to a place like this would be ideal. Their environment heavily influences them. Thanks to AB 1276, that will change,” Winfrey

concluded.

The symposium broke into small groups, focusing on what the inmates remembered about being sent to the adult correctional system and how the decision was made to send them there.

The decision whether to try a juvenile as an adult is made in a “fitness hearing.”

Prior to 2000, Juvenile Courts had complete discretion to make the decision. However, after 2000, local district attorneys made the decision whether to try a juvenile as an adult.

Former juvenile lifer Frankie Guzman talked about his hearing:

“Fitness trials ask, ‘Are you fit to remain in the Juvenile Court?’ So the burden is on the child to prove that they are suitable to be considered children. The lion’s share of prosecutions as adults are via direct file, meaning that a district attorney has 48 hours to decide whether to prosecute the child as an adult. A DA is someone who has no experience in child development and no weighing in from experts. That is the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Scott Budnick

problem: a broken system that doesn’t acknowledge the experiences of a child.”

The symposium closed with dialogue about the future of the movement to reform juvenile sentencing laws.

“When it comes to sentencing reform, there must be a general consensus from society and legislators that a certain law and policy is not only not viable but not in accordance with the principles of our nation’s laws and Constitution,” said Michael Romano, director and co-founder of the Three Strikes Project.

“We are hoping to have a bill to allow judges to adopt the same criteria (for eligibility to be tried as an adult) that the Supreme Court uses,” Calvin said.

—Karin Drucker contributed to this article



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Kid CAT’s chairman Tommy Winfrey addresses the crowd about AB 1276 and his experience in a maximum security prison

# Supreme Court to Decide if Juveniles’ Mandatory Life-Without-Parole Ruling Applies Retroactively

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court will decide if mandatory life-without-parole sentences apply retroactively for juvenile offenders.

The court picked the case of *Toca v. Louisiana* to decide whether the defendant deserves a new sentencing hearing, the New York Times reported.

George Toca, 47, was 17 in 1984 when he was convicted of fatally shooting a friend in a botched armed robbery, the newspaper noted.

Toca’s appeal refers to the 2012 decision of *Miller v. Alabama*, where the high court

ruled that mandatory life sentences for juvenile offenders violated the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Justice Elena Kagan wrote the majority opinion, expressing that judges and juries must take account of the distinctive characteristics of youth.

Kagan wrote that “mandatory life without parole for a juvenile precludes consideration of his chronological age and its hallmark features — among them, immaturity, impetuosity and failure to appreciate risks and consequences.”

“It prevents taking into account the family and home environment that surrounds him — and from which he cannot usu-

ally extricate himself — no matter how brutal or dysfunctional,” the decision said.

Life without parole sentences remain permissible, but only after individualized consideration, the court decided.

Toca is claiming the *Miller* decision entitles him to a new sentencing hearing. The Louisiana Supreme Court said “no.”

The Louisiana court explained in a different case with the same situation, retroactivity was not required because the *Miller* decision “merely sets forth a new rule of criminal constitutional procedure,” stated the article.

Toca’s lawyers urged the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case because the Supreme Courts of Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts,

Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire and Texas have ruled in favor of retroactivity; Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Pennsylvania have rejected retroactivity.

The district attorney for the Orleans Parish, Leon A. Cannizzaro Jr., is quoted as saying there are practical reasons to reject retroactivity. The inquiry called for by the *Miller* decision was too difficult to accomplish decades after the fact, Cannizzaro said.

The district attorney wrote, “Absent a psychological exam conducted prior to his conviction that specifically addressed Toca’s ‘youth and attendant characteristics,’ evidence as to Toca’s ‘diminished culpa-

bility and heightened capacity for change’ and ‘greater prospects for reform’ at the time of his conviction some 30 years ago on April 16, 1985, is likely nonexistent.”

As juvenile lifers wait for the *Toca* decision, there are other decisions that have been decided concerning harsh penalties for youth offenders. In its 2005 *Roper v. Simmons* ruling, the high court eliminated the juvenile death penalty.

In *Graham v. Florida*, the court ruled in 2010 that sentencing juvenile offenders to life without the possibility of parole was also unconstitutional, but only for crimes that did not involve killings.

# DOJ Report Cites High Emotional Distress That Affects Victims of Violent Crime

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

A U.S. Department of Justice special report on the socio-emotional impact of violent crime found that between 2009-2012, 68 percent of victims of serious violent crime incurred socio-emotional distress due to their victimization.

Feelings of moderate to severe distress; significant problems with work or school, such as trouble with a boss, coworkers, or peers; or significant problems with family members or friends,

including more arguments than before the victimization, an inability to trust, or not feeling as close after the victimization are examples of social-emotional distress.

Authors of the report Lynn Langton, Ph.D., and Jennifer Truman, Ph.D., both of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), used the information gathered by the National Crime Victimization Survey to compile their statistics.

From 2009-2012, the information fostered findings that showed 71 percent of sexual

assault and 70 percent of robbery victims suffer some form of moderate to severe distress. However, 57 percent of victims of aggravated and 46 percent of victims of simple assault experienced moderate to severe distress as a result of their traumatic encounter.

Also, more serious violent victimization committed by an intimate partner (60 percent) or relative (65 percent) resulted in severe distress more often than those committed by a stranger, which came in low at (31 percent) by comparison.

The research concluded that victims experience multiple symptoms covering both emotional and physical problems. Feeling worried and feeling anxious ranked among the two highest emotional effects experienced (72 percent) after a serious or violent crime.

The most physical consequences reported were trouble sleeping (47 percent) and fatigue (34 percent). Victims of serious or violent crime were also found to be more likely to suffer or experience one or more symptoms of emotional or physical distress.

The remainder of the report focused on intimate partner violence. When covering the wide range of different violent acts, more than 80 percent of victims reported that they experienced some form of socio-emotional problems.

Oddly, the presence of a weapon or bodily injury did not consistently produce a higher percentage of socio-emotional distress than those cases without a weapon.

The 54 percent of victims of violent and serious crimes who have experienced socio-emotional distress reported their victimization to authorities (police). What is not known is why only 12 percent of victims who

experienced socio-emotional problems sought and received assistance dealing with their emotional issues due to victimization.

An interesting note in the report was the information gathered concerning victims who were married. Seventy-four percent of victims who were widowed and 67 percent who were divorced or separated experienced socio-emotional problems. However, those who were never married had much lower numbers, 53 percent, and married people was 55 percent. It should be noted that the marital status data is reflective of a multivariate assay (analysis of multiple factors).

When the data was broken down into gender specific categories, the report conveyed that female victims were 2.6 times more likely to experience socio-emotional distress than males. Also, victims ranging in age from 35 to 54 (1.5) and 55 years of age and up (2.1) are more likely to experience socio-emotional distress than those between ages 12 and 17.

As far as race, marital status and education, there was no significant data showing any probability of a socio-emotional distress relationship.

## Fox Report Cites Progress And Challenges of Realignment

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown met with sheriffs and probation and county administrators at a conference in Sacramento in January to get their thoughts about California's three-year-old Realignment plan.

There was criticism from local sheriffs because their jails would be overcrowded, which would cause them to release inmates early, a report by Lonnie Wong of Fox 40 News noted.

The report also said that the shift from supervising ex-cons went from state parole to county probation departments. Sacramento County added nearly 2,000 probationers to the department's work load.

Realignment shifted the responsibility for housing and supervising certain low-level criminals from the state corrections department to county governments.

Over the last three years, the counties, through trial and error, have used programs to supervise and rehabilitate released inmates and to keep them out of the jails and prisons.

Matthew Cate, executive director of the California Association of Counties, said that criminal justice education has helped counties cope. "We know more about risk, we know a little bit more about treatment, so we're making smarter decisions about who should be in and who can be trusted in the community," said

Cate, the former head of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Brown said that "People do not want to get hit over the head, they don't want their cars stolen and they don't want their houses broken into, so we have to do something, but we ought to do it smart," the report said.

Brown's recently released 2015-16 budget proposal would allocate \$125 million for county probation departments to be used to supervise released inmates and provide job training, drug treatment and counseling, Fox reported.

Brown also said, "People will do bad things and the only question is do we make it worse by compounding the problem."

## Elderly, Ailing Prisoners on the Rise Throughout U.S. Prison System

Continued from Page 1

of course. They're considered on medical parole and assigned a parole agent," Hayhoe added.

If a prisoner manages to improve, for instance from a vegetative or quadriplegic condition, the law allows for return to prison.

Currently in California there are only 65 individuals in this type of care, and the number fluctuates because the prisoners' conditions are usually terminal. According to Hayhoe, there has been an increase in

prisoners' medical parole as the 55 and older population is the fastest-growing segment of prisoners.

"When you think about it, we release hundreds of people per month," Hayhoe added. "It's not anything new. The only thing different is we now provide payment to the nursing home and recoup that money from the federal government. It's expensive to provide that kind of care in a prison."

Outside of California, states have found privatization is cheaper. The state of Virginia

conducted a study to determine whether to keep long-term care inside prison walls or to partner with private nursing homes. It also considered "geriatric release," which allows offenders 60 years or older to apply for early release. The study found that Virginia would spend twice the private nursing home cost of \$66,430.

States spend an average of about \$70,000 per year to incarcerate prisoners 50 or older, about three times the costs to house a younger prisoner. Many prison experts agree that fewer older prisoners return to prison after release. Many states have "compassionate care" laws on the books, which allow the release of an ailing prisoner who, because of health status, is no longer seen as a danger to the community, but this law is rarely used.

Kyle Kaminski, a legislative liaison for the Michigan Department of Corrections, put together a report that estimated the number of prisoners in the 50 and older age bracket has increased almost 50 percent in the past 10 years. While the state housed about 600 of the older prisoners near a hospital facility, the state wanted to determine whether privatizing could better serve the prisoner population.



Photo courtesy of Human Rights Watch

Many elderly prisoners across America who are sick often end up in medical facilities because of their denial for compassionate release

## Federal Judge Dumps 'Postcards Only' Rule



File photo

Ventura County Jail

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

A federal judge has tossed out a Ventura County jail policy limiting prisoners to postcard mail, Courthouse News Service reports.

The September ruling came in a lawsuit filed by Prison Legal News.

The county said it adopted a postcard only regulation in October 2010 to "reduce the risks to the security of our jails and increase the efficient flow of mail to inmates."

The county claimed innocent-looking letters could be used to introduce contraband and send coded information about gang activities.

Prison Legal News argued the county's policy unconstitutionally restricted its distribution and correspondence mailed to prisoners and pre-trial detainees.

U.S. district Judge George

King approved a settlement between the county and Prison Legal News that ended the postcard-only policy.

The jailers can no longer refuse to deliver correspondence, catalogs and subscription order forms. Jailers cannot refuse to deliver material that was Xeroxed, photocopied or printed from the Internet and cannot prohibit inmates from ordering books, magazines or other publications.

Inmates will be allowed publications that contain sexually suggestive content unless "the publications contain images of fully exposed genitalia, buttocks or female breasts and/or graphic depictions of sexual acts."

As part of the settlement, the county agreed to pay Prison Legal News \$350,000 for damages and fees.

Prison Legal News was represented by Ernest Galvan and Brian Vogel.



# Art Murals Inside Donovan Correctional Facility



San Diego mural inside R. J. Donovan state prison

Photo art courtesy of Peter Merts



Photo art courtesy of Peter Merts

The painting above is located in the visiting area and is part of the Project PAINT program

# Lifers Uplift Hospitalized Children Through Origami

*Continued from Page 1*

Valentine's Day. "Just imagining the smiles on the kids' faces, when they receive the (origami) hearts, makes it all worth it," said inmate Upu S. Ama.

The origami event was led by volunteer Jun Hamamoto. She first brought origami to San Quentin in 2012 when she asked prisoners to fold cranes in support of global unity and world peace to be placed on the World Tree of Hope. The Rainbow World Fund (RWF) an Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender (LGBT) based humanitarian aid organization and the Japanese community came together to sponsor the World Tree of Hope.

The cranes made were signed with positive messages from inmates and displayed on a giant Christmas tree inside San Francisco's City Hall.

The success of the first origami workshop inspired Hamamoto to bring the origami movement inside San Quentin.

Since 2012, she has held countless origami sessions involving different groups in San Quentin, such as the Native Hawaiian Spiritual Group, R.O.O.T.S. (Restoring Our Original True Selves), Buddha Dharma Sangha, Kid C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together), Free to Succeed, the Native American Culture Group and Project REACH. Hamamoto plans to extend an invitation to more groups.

## THE ORIGAMI LEGEND

As a part of her Japanese heritage, Hamamoto believes that origami is more than an art project. It can have a spiritual meaning or impact. For example, there is a Japanese legend that if a person folds 1,000 origami cranes he'll be granted a wish.

During World War II, a little Japanese girl, Sadako Sasaki, contracted cancer from the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima. The little girl wished to get well from the cancer and



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmates making the origami cranes that were sent to S.F. City Hall to promote global peace

thereby attempted to fold 1,000 cranes to get her wish.

Sadako wrote messages on the wings of the cranes, such as; "I will write peace on your wings, and you will fly all over the world."

Sadako got up to 644 cranes before she passed away. Her classmates and friends completed her task, which inspired the creation of The World Tree of Hope.

For the inmates it was an opportunity to offer support for the children. "I wanted to give back to the kids," said inmate Adnan Khan. "I understand that receiving something unexpected can uplift a child. It is similar to receiving mail; it brings joy. I hope I can do the same for them."

During the origami session, the men were asked to wash their hands and be mindful of the kids' conditions. For instance, no tape or glue were used to make the origami because

they were told tape or glue could negatively affect the children's conditions.

"Not only was the origami made with careful focus, it also required discipline and puts me in a meditative state of mind," Khan said.

Sharing similar feelings, inmate Nick Lopez said, "When I'm folding origami, it calms my mind. For the few hours that I'm involved, it takes me away from prison. And knowing this goes to the children inspires me to want to do more."

Harold Meeks, who attended his second origami workshop, said, "In addition to making hearts, we've also made butterflies to send home to family and friends. But what's most meaningful is it's an opportunity to build on rehabilitation and give back to the community. It is an honor to give and serve someone who is in an unfortunate circumstance."



Photo by Steve Emrick

Origami hearts made by prisoners and given to Oakland's Children Hospital.

# Commending Prisoners Across the State for Good Deeds



A graduate receives his completion certificate

## Pleasant Valley SP's New Substance Abuse Treatment Hailed as Success

By Lt. Ryan Anderson, AA/Public Information Officer PVSP

A group of men has taken steps to reclaim their lives and tackle substance abuse.

Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP) celebrated the first graduation of the Intensive Outpatient-level Substance Abuse Treatment (SAT) Program.

Two dozen inmates participated in the Dec. 10 ceremony and were awarded with a certificate of completion.

PVSP activated the multi-level SAT Program in July 2014 and has had 60 inmates successfully complete the program in the Outpatient or Intensive Outpatient Level.

The program consists of three levels: the Outpatient Level is a three-month program, the Intensive Outpatient is a five-month program and the Modified Therapeutic Community is a six-month program.

The first graduation for the Outpatient Level took place in October 2014 and the first grad-

uation for the Modified Therapeutic Community is expected to take place in January.

"We are a new program here at PVSP that is rapidly gaining popularity within the inmate population. It is exciting to see the change in each inmate who participates in the program and we hope to give them the tools necessary to succeed upon their release back into the community," said Jennifer Cota, Correctional Counselor III and SAT Coordinator.

The success is largely attrib-

uted not only to the dedicated contract staff who work with the inmates each day but also to the support of Warden Scott Frauenheim and his executive staff, according to those with the program.

"I commend these men for taking this brave step to learn from their mistakes and enrich their lives," said Warden Frauenheim. "I am confident the lessons learned throughout this program will be remembered for years to come and put the participants on the path to success."

## Largest Class Graduates From Valley State Prison Adult School

By Lt. Matthew Osborn, AA/Public Information Officer Valley State Prison

Valley State Prison saw the graduation of 203 students from Valley Adult School, marking the largest class since converting to a male prison in 2012.

Valley State Adult School's mission is to foster self-improvement by motivating the students to engage in measurable goal-setting, personal responsibility, academic and vocational achievement, and life-like skills strategies.

The graduation included inmates that completed their General Education Degrees,

College Degrees, Academic Programs and the Career Technical Education Program.

Inmates were able to accomplish their goals with the assistance of Valley State Prison Adult School instructors and inmate tutors.

The tutors play an intricate role in assisting inmates in the areas they may be struggling

in. Without the assistance of inmate tutors fewer inmates would have participated in the graduation ceremony, according to officials.

Several administrators from the Office of Correctional Education, Superintendent Dr. Brantley Choate, Deputy Superintendent Shannon Swain, and Associate Superintendent J. Wynn attended the ceremony and congratulated the inmates regarding their recent accomplishments.

Dr. Choate spoke to the inmates and praised them for their hard work and challenged them to further their educations.

Valley State Prison former Warden Ron Davis, Chief Deputy Warden (A) John Porras and Associate Warden Kevin Daveiga attended the graduation and assisted with distributing the diplomas.

Warden Davis spoke to the inmates regarding their accomplishments and the opportunities at Valley State Prison. He encouraged them to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them and make the most of their time while incarcerated at the prison.



A staff posing with the graduating class of 2014

## Inmates Kick Substance Abuse Through First Treatment Program At C. A. C. Facility

By Lt. Ignacio Rivera, A.A., Public Information Officer and Stephanie Lacie, Correctional Counselor California City Correctional Facility

California City Correctional Facility (CAC), with the collaboration of Phoenix House, held its first graduation ceremony for the inaugural set of inmates to complete the Phoenix House Substance Abuse Treatment Program.

Phoenix House is a 150-day CBI-Substance Abuse Treatment program in which the clients are taught various skills to promote their success in the community upon their release from custody.

The ceremony was held in September. In addition to substance abuse treatment, the clients are provided both anger management and parenting. It is CAC and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation hope the graduates take these skills and apply them in everyday life. The graduation ceremony contained skits, singing and dancing, and poetry readings.

Correctional Counselor Stephanie Lacy and Warden David Long addressed the graduates with words of encouragement. CAC executive staff, as well as the respective Correctional Counselors attended the ceremony for each of the housing units. Eighty-eight of the original ninety-six participants were able to complete the curriculum-based program, and received certificates of completion of Anger Management, Parenting and Substance Abuse Treatment.



Staff of CBI-Substance Abuse Treatment poses with the 2014 graduating class



Vice Principal Jennifer Baldwin speaks to Facility A and Facility B inmates receiving vocational completion certificates, GED certificates and high school diplomas at California Correctional Center



121 students wait to receive their diplomas. One of the graduates received an Associate of Arts degree, 12 graduated from the Office Services Program, 14 graduated from the Automotive Program and 90 graduates earned their GED

## Kern Valley State Prison Holds First Graduation Ceremony

Commencement ceremony honors 121 graduates before a welcome assembly of family, friends, custody staff and prison educators

By Marshall Denning, A.A., Public Information Officer, Kern Valley State Prison

Kern Valley State Prison inmates donned various colored caps and gowns to mark the prison's first graduation.

The first commencement ceremony in August honored 121 graduates before a welcome assembly of family, friends, custody staff and prison educators.

The graduation ceremonies all started with the pledge of allegiance led by the Academic Vice Principal Randy Clem and the National Anthem sung by Krystal Mascarin.

"Rehabilitation through Education" was the adopted theme with a quote by Arie Pencovici documented on the Program Brochures which read, "Graduation is only a concept. In real life, every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you'll make a dif-

ference." Principal Stacey Hoffman was one of the keynote speakers. He encouraged the graduates not to think of a GED as a second class accomplishment.

He said many people, some of them famous, have received their GEDs such as actor/comedian Bill Cosby, actor Nicholas

Cage, boxer Oscar De La Hoya, Wendy's restaurant founder Dave Thomas and the Rapper 50 cent, who even got his GED while in jail.

One of the graduates received an Associate of Arts Degree, 12 graduated from the Office Services program, 14 graduated from the automotive program

and 90 graduates earned their GEDs.

Many staff and students were given the opportunity to speak to encourage a positive rehabilitation attitude through the various academic and career technical educational opportunities present within the institutions of the CDCR.



The CCWF graduating class of 2014 comprises 38 inmates who received Associate of Arts Degrees



Heinz Meisnitzer, Dr. Gloria Kalisher and Patrie Grace meet with a group of inmates at Correctional Training Facility, Soledad

# Honoring the Life of Judith Puchner Breen

By Aly Tamboura  
Contributing Writer

Judith Puchner Breen, beloved San Quentin volunteer whose Video Literacy Project and passion for teaching touched the lives of many prisoners, died Jan. 17.

Breen earned a B.A. from Swarthmore College and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. Her extensive career teaching English literature began at Temple University in Philadelphia and finished at San Francisco State University, where she taught from 1969 to 2006. After retiring from public teaching, she brought her smiling personality and instructing experience to San Quentin through the Prison University Project.

"The word on the yard was Judy Breen was a tough teacher," said Bobby Evans, former student and Video Literacy Project coordinator. "With Judy, her students knew there was impartial treatment – a student is a student, no matter where you are or what your situation."

Indeed, Breen was known for her toughness in grading English papers as well as for her devotion to spreading literacy throughout the prison population. Her passion for teaching and her understanding of the power and freedom found in literature made the men at San Quentin perfect subjects for her empathy and unique style of teaching.

Breen could be just as tough as she was compassionate. She would hand out books to prisoners with the expecta-

tion that they would complete the books – no exceptions, no excuses – and have well-thought-out responses.

This passion for commanding prisoners and rousing them to read sparked her creation of the Video Literacy Project. Breen interviewed prisoners on video about their experiences after completing a book-reading assignment. The interviews were then played on the San Quentin institutional television channel for viewing by the entire prison population.

"Her time spent at San Quentin was in many ways the most meaningful work of her life," said Molly Breen, one of her two surviving daughters.

When Breen was not teaching, she was an avid bird-watcher and gardener, according to her family.

"It is no longer a mystery why we became such close friends. I did not know of her love for birds and gardening," Evans said, after learning of Breen's passing. "I too get so much from gardening and the animals it attracts."

After Breen departed from her volunteer work in 2011 due to health issues, Evans began a beautification project, planting flowers and other plants around the San Quentin education complex where Breen spent her time teaching. After the warmest January in California's recorded history, the plants in the garden were in full bloom the day Breen passed.

For many of the men at San Quentin, the spirit of Breen



File Photo

Judy Breen inside the media room, talking about her teaching experiences

will live in the garden, the legacy of the Video Literacy Program she created, and the world she opened up to them through her promotion of literacy.

"Judy is a friend, and we love her with warm memories of her presence here with us," Evans said. "She was a powerful influence in her home, her career, and here at San Quentin. She would always ask, 'What can I do?' I would respond, 'Judy, being here with us is doing enough. You taught classes, created the Video Literacy Project, and talked to the men.'"

Breen is survived by her two daughters, three grandchildren and five beloved nieces and nephews.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Bobby Evans gardening in front of the education gate

## Christmas Banquet Breaks Bread for Nearly 200 Prisoners Inside the Protestant Chapel

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

San Quentin has many different organizations that minister to the men through religion. The organizations hold banquets every year, each for their specific religious affiliation, to acknowledge the impact they have had.

San Quentin Chaplain Mardi Jackson emceed the annual Christmas banquet, an event for the Protestant affiliated organizations that has been held for decades. This past December, nearly 200 diners broke bread together in the Protestant Chapel, praising each other's yearly accomplishments.

At that banquet, inmate Chris Scull spoke of his experiences in several of the self-help programs. He has been a part of Victim Offender Education Group, VOEG's Next Step, and is currently enrolled in the Addiction Recovery Counseling program, training to be a drug counselor.

"I believe that a person cannot conquer the power of addiction until they are able to teach it," Scull said. "That's why I want to be a drug counselor."

Scull arrived at San Quentin in 2008 and is serving a life

term with a chance of parole this year.

Chaplain Jackson opened the evening with a blessing, before presenting Certificates of Appreciation to volunteers.

"It is a blessing and an honor. This is truly a family," said one of the members of Cornerstone Ministries while accepting the certificate.

When volunteer Ilene Gilbert was awarded her certificate, Chaplain Jackson praised her, saying, "This is a woman who labored here for more than 20 years and asked for nothing. A lot of the table coverings before you, she made herself. I have contributed a little, but she's contributed a lot."

Referring to the two Death Row ministers in attendance, Chaplain Jackson said, "They come in here when it's rainy, cold, even when they're not feeling well. I know the Lord looks down on these men with favor."

When Linda Jackson and members of the Community Presbyterian Church received their certificates, Linda said, "It seems funny to be leaving church to go to church, but that's what we're doing, bringing you with us."

As members of the local Baptist church in Tiburon received

their certificates, their pastor spoke with tears streaming down his face. "It is the high-light of our lives to come here. My God is a rock in a wary land," he said.

Hillside Covenant, a suburban church in Walnut Creek, donated dozens of irons to San Quentin so that the men can press their clothes and go to church looking neat.

Referring to the wide diversity of race and culture in the chapel, one speaker said, "It is the closest picture of heaven — all the different people and different backgrounds."

"I feel like I'm coming home," said Al Featherstone, a facilitator of a self-help group called IMPACT. "They say you cannot

change, but every time I come in here and go out, I prove society a liar."

Christian creative writing teacher Kathleen Jackson took the stage with her students to talk about the group's anthology, *Bind the Testimony*.

"Most of them were good men, until bad choices turned their lives out," Jackson said of the 19 men who wrote personal stories about their conversion to Christianity.

The idea for *Bind the Testimony*, Jackson said, came from inmate James Metters. One of her close friends helped her get the anthology published.

"This book is about who God is," Metters said, "God came to take something that man has

thrown away and shined it up and made it brand-new."

Music for the event was provided by inmates David Jassy, vocals and guitar, John Holiday on congas, and Greg Dixon and Albert Flagg on keyboards

"This year, it was more organized," Dixon said. "People really prepared themselves for live music instead of CDs. I get my blessings from the Lord, Mardi Jackson, and Brother Holloway. I allow myself to be used in any way they see fit. That's how I get my blessings. It's about us worshipping together. I had to learn how to do that."

The meal for the night was prepared by inmate John Parratt and his dedicated crew of inmate workers.

### 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 or jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

By Larry Stiner, Jr.  
Contributing Columnist

# Undisputed True Champions

## An 'OG's' Perspective

The man who fathered me said I was his champ. He told me I deserved that title because I had stood strong in the boxing ring of life. I had gone toe-to-toe with a challenge that not many others would have willingly accepted.

He praised me for becoming the legal guardian of my much younger siblings and for being a stabilizing presence in their lives when legal circumstances made it impossible for him to be. I deflected his compliments and expressed why I felt that he was the real champ.

I told him the title was appropriate because he had sacrificed so much, including his freedom, in the fight to create a way for his children to have better lives. In the end, we settled on being co-champions as we reflected upon the many years we had fought together in attempting to end his lengthy incarceration.

On Jan. 11 my father and I yelled in excitement, breathed a deep sigh of relief and took our imaginary boxing gloves off. For the first time in more than two decades, we could finally stop fighting for the freedom that had eluded him.

No longer did we need to guard



Photo courtesy of the Stiner family

Larry Stiner Jr. unites with half-sisters Kishana, Latanya, Natisha and Taminaia, and his half-brothers Lige and MTume, after their father Watani Stiner paroled from San Quentin

our emotions, in order to protect our hearts from the punishing blows of denial repeatedly delivered by the Parole Board. Each of the first 10 hearings with the Board of Prison Terms had been like a round of defeat in a hard-

fought boxing match. We would jab with letters of support from family members and friends, before following up with punching combinations of job offers and stable living arrangements.

Still, the board always seemed

to block the punches and counter with something that knocked out our hopes. We'd find ourselves not only fighting for my father's freedom, but also fighting off the painful feelings of frustration and hopelessness. This pain

hit us each time my father's collect phone call connected us, and he uttered the words, "Once again they claim that I'm not yet suitable for parole."

On that recent Sunday morning in January, however, all of those seemingly ever-present feelings of disappointment and sadness instantly disappeared. The 21-year fight had finally come to an end. My father was released from San Quentin State Prison at last, and we were over the moon with pure joy. Thankfully, we could step outside of the fictitious boxing ring and celebrate like we had dreamed of doing since the cell bars first closed on him back in 1994.

So much time had passed. My pop had been escorted into prison at the age of 46 with a head full of thick, black hair, worn in an Afro style. He walked out of the penitentiary, just a few weeks shy of his 67th birthday, with short graying hair and a smile that lit up the world.

He had made it to the other side of the wall, and on that other side was a beautiful place where freedom, family and friends had been waiting for him — for what seemed like forever.

The long and hard fight was finally over. Now, we could stand side-by-side in victory as true champions.

# Revisiting San Quentin's Notorious Seventies Era

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

## BACK IN THE DAY

**Sept. 17, 1971**—Mattress Factory Clerk Robert L. Higgs collapses from smoke inhalation while attempting to remove a burning cart full of Styrofoam believed to have been deliberately set ablaze.

**Sept. 17, 1971**—The California Apprenticeship Council adopts new regulation to increase employment of ethnic minority groups.

**Sept. 17, 1971**—San Quentin's sheet metal shop workers complete construction of new ventilator for North Block.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—California's Adult Authority passes a measure that would require all prisoners to be interviewed within six months of imprisonment in order to establish a tentative parole date.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Former San Quentin Warden Clinton T. Duffy continues his push for prison reforms.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Educational program continues for prisoners in maximum-security control units to receive high school diplomas.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Prisoner Clyde Hall and three other inmates were placed in isolation



File photo

Inside San Quentin's North Block

after Hall was discovered at the bottom of a large hole in the south block basement during an apparent escape attempt.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Canine "Rebel" Adams becomes the official mascot of the San Quentin News.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Group psychotherapy is offered to San Quentin prisoners as self-improvement measure to improve

mental health.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Skyline Gym introduces new boxing contract.

**Feb. 4, 1972**—New West Block canteen project known as Canteen-West proves successful.

**Feb. 4, 1972**—New S.A.T.E. program provides educational opportunities and support for San Quentin's African-American men.

**Feb. 4, 1972**—The San Quentin Pirates hand U.C. Medical Center their third straight varsity basketball loss.

**March 3, 1972**—The California Supreme Court rules the death penalty unconstitutional, allowing 107 men and women to be released from death rows at two institutions.

**March 3, 1972**—San Quentin's population drops to 1,975, its lowest in over 50 years.

**March 3, 1972**— "Psycho," one of East Block's resident cats, survives free fall from fifth tier that occurred while stalking winged prey.

**March 3, 1972**—The director of California's Adult Authority temporarily suspends all community release passes.

**March 3, 1972**—Bob Roberts takes over duties as San Quentin News' new sports editor.

# New 'Blueprint' Aims to Reduce Mass Incarceration

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

A rare detailed plan to slash the 2.3 million population in the United States prisons and jails was published recently in a special issue of the journal *Criminology and Public Policy*.

The author is law professor Michael Tonry of the University of Minnesota. He laid out what he called a "blueprint" to

remodel the American sentencing system to end mass incarceration.

"The severe sentencing laws enacted in the 1980s and 1990s must be repealed or greatly cut back" and "meaningful limits, scaled to offense seriousness, must be placed on the lengths of lawful sentences," said Tonry. He proposes:

- Three strikes and mandatory minimum sentence laws must

be repealed or at least narrowed in scope.

- Life without parole sentences must be eliminated.

- Repeal "truth in sentencing" laws, i.e., those reducing or eliminating good-time credits for certain crimes, such as California Penal Code Sections 2933.1 and 2933.2.

- Sentences must match the seriousness of the crimes. Tonry

proposes minimum sentences of one, two, four, six, eight or 10 years for serious offenses and longer for a small number of very serious cases.

- Sentences must be embodied in sentencing guidelines established by state panels.

- Every state should have a parole guideline system.

- Every state should cut its incarceration total in half by 2020.

- Inmates generally should be eligible for parole after serving five years, three years for those 35 or older.

However, Tonry also doubts that there is current political will to support his blueprint. He notes that there have been only "minor, marginal" amendments to sentencing laws by the states despite the high rates of incarceration.

# Balancing Prison's High Cost With Fines, Fees, and Restitution Payments

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

To offset the cost of imprisonment, the criminal justice system imposes fines, fees, and restitution payments. The system can burden an offender with a financial obligation at every stage of the legal process, a new report says.

The report lists two primary justifications underlining these obligations: One is to punish the offender, and the other is to generate revenue for the criminal justice system.

"Legal systems impose fines, fees, and restitution requirements as a punitive measure intended to deter offenders from future crime," while court-imposed fines are intended to punish offenders or to provide financial compensation to victims, according to an August report by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Some jurisdictions spend more money on "debt collection and punishing offenders

who are behind on their payments than they are likely to recoup from enforcing the financial obligations of ex-offenders," the report noted.

In a study prepared by the Brennan Center of the 15 states with the highest prison populations, researchers discovered that individuals who cannot pay their debt all at once are charged with added poverty penalties that include late fees, interest and payment plan fees.

California, Florida, Ohio, and Texas charge public defender fees, "which could include a fee to apply for a public defender, fees for the cost of legal defense, and various administrative court fees," the report noted.

Riverside County requires financially solvent inmates to pay \$142 per day for their incarcerations.

According to the report, "Florida has raised many of its existing fees by \$10 to \$50 and enacted 20 different fees for individuals ensnared in the

criminal justice system."

In addition, "These added fees include requirements that defendants pay for the cost of prosecution (minimum \$50 charge), various surcharges that vary by offense type (a low of \$15 for criminal traffic violations and a high of \$151 for assault and battery convictions) and charges to inmates for subsistence cost while incarcerated," the report said.

Texas charges a fee for judicial fund court costs (\$15) as well as requiring offenders to pay a string of charges, including an arrest fee (\$5), a warrant fee (\$50) and a time payment fee (\$25), the report revealed.

"Restitution is one of the few mechanisms by which the criminal justice system seeks to acknowledge and address the direct impact of crime on victims," the report said.

In many courts, offenders must "Provide financial compensation to the victim for loss or damage to their property, lost income due to missing

work, direct medical expenses, and psychological services, among other things," the report said.

Restitution debt is particularly concerning to the criminal justice because "The majority of offenders lack the financial resources to pay their debts." The report said restitution comprises the largest proportion of criminal debt for individual offenders.

According to the report, "Nonpayment of restitution obligations is inherently problematic. The Mandatory Victims Restitution Act requires federal courts to order restitution without consideration of an offender's capacity to pay."

"Despite the inability of most offenders to pay their restitution obligations, criminal justice officials must attempt to collect this debt. Most collection methods have not been effective and result in extensive administrative costs," it was reported.

It was also reported that,

"Approximately 70 percent of incarcerated males between the ages of 33 and 40 are fathers, and the majority owe child support arrearages that they are unable to pay."

In many situations, "Non-custodial parents enter prison owing an average of more than \$10,000 in child support debt," the report said. They stand to accumulate nearly \$20,000 in additional debt by the completion of their sentence.

"States have some discretion to prioritize offender debt payments." However, federal law "requires that child support obligations be given preference over all other debt," according to the report.

"An estimated 10 million people owe more than \$50 billion in debt resulting from their involvement in the criminal justice system. ... The majority of offenders may never be able to pay off their criminal debt because they are poor both before and after their incarceration," the report states.

## Food and Electronic Vendor Companies Profit From Inmates

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

"There are 2 million-plus inmates incarcerated in America at this time. We haven't tapped every one of them, but we've seen more sales every year," said Ed Michael, general manager of *Swintec*, a New Jersey company that has offered electronic typewriters to inmates since 2003.

According to a June 24 *NBC* News report, U.S. inmates are increasingly buying electronics such as MP3 players and flat-screen televisions – spending about \$750 million annually on

these gadgets. Appliances built for prisoners are often in transparent plastic, so guards can inspect them for drugs, weapons or contraband.

*Swintec* sells as many as 5,000 typewriters annually. They sell in San Quentin as well as prisons in 46 states, including Sing Sing in New York and Leavenworth in Kansas, Michael said.

The company's highest-end typewriters contain enough memory to store 50 pages of text, making them word processors – without Internet access. Prices for these machines range from \$192 to \$748. "We

don't foresee an end to this," Michael said.

The corrections-approved electronics include name brands such as *Sony* and *Casio*. Items include headphones, radios, and 15-inch flat-screen TVs.

Sales to prisoners in catalogs are modified to be "prison safe" i.e. "see-through" and with "security screws," according to the website for *Union Supply Direct*, a company based in Rancho Dominguez.

*Keefe Group* has offices in 10 cities and calls itself "the nation's leading supplier" of prison-ready products and elec-

tronics that run the gamut from televisions, typewriters, CD players, portable radios, fans, and clocks.

*Keefe Group* cites security concerns, preferring to stay out of the media, said spokesman Paul Scherer.

U.S. prisoners, this year, will purchase an estimated \$750 million in clear electronics, according to Lucas Isakowitz, an industry analyst at *IBISWorld*, a market research organization.

"The prison electronics market will likely become larger in the coming years as states are allowing prisoners access to more electronics such as electronic tablets," Isakowitz said.

Isakowitz cited seven states (Ohio, North Dakota, Georgia, Louisiana, Virginia, Michigan, and Washington) that now allow prisoners to purchase mini-tablet computers.

While some people on the outside might disagree with giving inmates access to tech toys, *Swintec's* Michael contends this growing market is helping convicts improve themselves.

"They (the gizmos) give inmates something good to do on a daily basis, rather than sit there and be idle..." he said.

A famous owner of a *Swintec* typewriter, according to company officials, was Stanley "Tookie" Williams, an ex-Los Angeles gang member.

Convicted of four murders, he wrote a series of anti-violence books. In 2005, he was executed by the state of California. Archbishop Desmond Tutu lauded Williams' writing.

"Narcotica," a novel Daniel Genis created in prison, was also tapped out on a *Swintec*. It will be published later this year.

This introduces the reader to an alternate version of the world, one in which drugs, rather than alcohol, have become

the legal and socially accepted inebriant of choice.

Genis was addicted to heroin before his incarceration in New York state prisons. He was sober when his sentence began in 2004.

"I wrote the book in solitary confinement. They gave you five pieces of paper a week in there. So the book was written on ... paper, plus pieces of cardboard and on the backs of official forms ... all I did was write," Genis said. "When I brought all those papers out, it just looked like a horrible mess."

He later typed it up on the typewriter. Genis, 35, now lives in Brooklyn. He said that the old-fashioned typewriter can still crank up potent profit.

He claims some inmates use them for gambling operations – typing tiny betting stubs to distribute for sports wagers.

However, other prisoners complete legal work in their cells. "Now, there is a great perk to that," Genis said. Though not allowed to do legal work for others, it happens anyway.

For a jailhouse lawyer, the typewriter is a tool for earning money. "They earn ... couple hundred bucks for every legal brief they write, and the typewriter pays for itself."

In this black market of a prison, those legal briefs are paid in packs of cigarettes or by Western Union. Someone on the street pays real money into someone else's account, Genis said.

Electronic typewriters in prison may mean income for some. What they are not, Genis said, is trouble. "Nobody ever takes apart a typewriter to make a weapon because the thing is just too expensive," he said. "... the kind of people who have typewriters are not the kind ... who need weapons."

## Actor Pushes to Reduce Mass Incarceration

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Actor Michael K. Williams has joined the *American Civil Liberties Union's* battle to curb mass incarceration.

"We're at a critical moment in this country, and I'm excited to work with the *ACLU* to push for that change," said Williams.

*ACLU* has started a campaign that it hopes will reduce incarceration in America by 50 percent.

"Over the last 40 years, this country has been locking up far too many people – mostly black and brown men – for far too long, and for things like mental illness and drug dependency. It's just not working," said Williams in a statement urging people to sign a pledge supporting *ACLU's* "Campaign to End Mass Incarceration."

Williams played Chalky White in the *HBO* show *Boardwalk* and Omar Little in *The Wire* on *HBO*. He grew up in a New York City housing project and has seen the criminal justice



File photo

Michael K. Williams: 'We need better solutions' to fix the criminal justice system

system devastate whole communities.

Mass incarceration bloats our prisons and wastes trillions of taxpayer money, Williams said. It cuts people off from employment, housing, and family stability, which leads to a cycle of failure, he added.

"We need better solutions ... For example: shifting our

country's response to drug and alcohol addiction away from the criminal justice system and toward more effective, treatment-based solutions would be a great start," said Williams.

"Change in our justice system is long overdue – and momentum is on our side. Will you join us and sign the pledge?" asked Williams.

# Fear, Failure in Criminal Justice System Viewed

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

*The Bet*, (1889) by Anton Chekhov, uses a philosophical argument about exploitation, greed, overconfidence, fear, and failure in a debate about whether a modern society should use the death penalty or life imprisonment as a punishment.

## CHEKHOV WRITES

*Capital punishment kills a man at once, but lifelong imprisonment kills him slowly. Which executioner is the more humane, he who kills you in a few minutes or he who drags the life out of you in the course of many years?*

While the plot explores the long-term effects of incarceration, *The Bet* also probes into how people treat each other and see themselves.

A wager is proposed: How much isolation could a man take? Could a young man of modest means withstand 15 years of solitary confinement? If he could, a banker of ample means would award him \$2 million.

For someone who's never spent a day locked up, Chekhov's bet may seem like something worth trying. However *The Bet* smartly gets around this by qualifying who gets locked up and the circumstances thereof:

*...voluntary confinement is a great deal harder to bear than compulsory. The thought that you have the right to step out in liberty at any moment will poison your whole existence in prison.*

Angela Davis addresses how individuals think about prisons



Anton Chekhov

in her 2003 book, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*

*We take prisons for granted but are often afraid to face the realities they produce. After all, no one wants to go to prison. Because it would be too agonizing to cope with the possibility that anyone, including ourselves, could become a prisoner, we tend to think of the prison as disconnected from our own life.*

Who in their right mind would want to subject themselves to 15 years of solitary confinement, like the young man in *The Bet*?

When imagining "solitary confinement" one generally pictures a person sitting in a darkened cell with no company. It is being utterly alone. It's an existence where sensory deprivation is maximized. No light. No sound. No physical contact with another human being. It is a bleak existence.

Technically there is no such place in California prisons. But in reality sensory deprivation

## BOOK REVIEW

still exists in various levels. It's a penalty that rule-breakers within the prison must pay.

The objective and result of prison as an institution is scrutinized by Michel Foucault in *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, (1977).

*The general form of an apparatus intended to render individuals docile and useful, by means of precise work upon their bodies, indicated the prison institution, before the law ever defined it as the penalty 'par excellent.'*

The convict knows that when the bars are pulled shut, there's no way out of the prison cell. It's time to do the time. They enter a state in which they accept their punishment and become ready to repent their crimes.

The young man in *The Bet* comes to terms with himself, well before the 15 years of sol-

itary confinement is over. "Fifteen years imprisonment taught him to sit still."

During the same 15-year span, the banker loses his wealth through speculation. As the day the banker must honor his bet approaches, he becomes scared. Fear drives him to think of ways to avoid his fate, including murder.

The banker's overconfidence and desire to play with the life of the young man shows that over time, anything can happen and a person's perception of himself and society can change.

In the end, the argument about whether the death penalty is an appropriate form of punishment in civil society or whether long-term incarceration or solitary confinement serves a purpose is lost in *The Bet*, for the young man loses all interest in the ma-

terial world while the banker is reduced to a pitiful and desperate individual.

So, what are prisons designed to accomplish?

In *Class, Race & Hyper-incarceration in Revanchist America*, (2010), Loïc Wacquant argues:

*Instead of getting sidetracked into investigations of the crime-punishment (dis)connection, one must recognize that the prison is not a mere technical implement of government designed to stem offending, but a core state capacity devoted to managing dispossessed and dishonored populations.*

Yet ironically, by the end of Chekhov's story, it is the banker who becomes dispossessed and dishonored, not the man in solitary confinement.

*The Bet* is a short story that I encourage people to read and then give their feedback. If you're incarcerated and want a copy of it, I'll be happy to send one so we can hear what you think.

## Last of the Mohicans: Who Is Really the Last Man Standing?

## MOVIE REVIEW

*The Last of the Mohicans* is a musket and hatchet, arrow-packed love story set in British-controlled America.

Nathaniel (Daniel Day-Lewis) is a frontiersman whose main loyalty is to his adopted Mohawk tribe. But when he falls in love with an aristocratic woman named Cora (Madeleine Stowe), he's drawn into a war between the French and the English.

Nathaniel, his Mohawk brother and his father Chingachgook (Russell Means) are only interested in protecting fellow settlers and living as free from government control as they can. In contrast, Magua (Wes Studi) from the Huron tribe seeks to avenge his dead family by killing British Colonel Monro and his daughters Cora and Alice (Jodhi May). The plot is driven forward by Magua's blood lust, Nathaniel and Cora's love, and war between two governments.

When the SQ Reviews members sat down to discuss the film, it became clear that none of us liked the choice of the actor as the central character of the movie. Though the movie never portrays Nathaniel as a native-born Mohican, the fact that he is the protagonist in a movie about the last members of a Native American tribe proved problematic for many.



Artwork courtesy of MARVEL

Juan Meza, who is of Apache descent, compared *The Last of the Mohicans* to *Dances with Wolves*, and said the problem with *The Last of the Mohicans* is that the movie reverses the classic roles of the hero and the victim.

"It's the *Dances with Wolves* effect," Aaron Taylor says, and a new term is born. Everyone chuckles, then Taylor continues. "I loved the movie with the exception of choosing Day-Lewis as the hero. I loved it for the action scenes, historical context. I loved Magua. He had some of the best lines in the movie about destroying a race of people — he reminded me of General Zod in *Man of Steel*."

"Sounds like someone needs some Restorative Justice," Emile DeWeaver says,

referring to the need for forgiveness and reconciliation between conflicting cultural groups.

"What about Magua?" Rahsaan Thomas asks. "Was he an example of becoming what you hate? He went on the war path killing women and children because his kids were killed and wife taken."

"He did nothing wrong," Meza insists, rocking forward in his seat. "He was a hero. He was out to destroy everything that didn't belong there."

"Why was it okay for Magua to decide what belonged there, but we condemn the British government for deciding what did and didn't belong in America?" DeWeaver asks. He likes to play Devil's advocate.

What if somebody broke into your house?" Meza asks. "What would you do to protect your family?"

"Magua's family was dead," DeWeaver says. "Revenge was no nobler than the English deciding that they would make the world England for its own good. Don't get me wrong, Native Americans had the moral high ground. But framing the issue around who is right or wrong is the problem. It's this dichotomy of us versus them."

Overall, we rated the movie an average of 2 out of 5 dinner cookies.

Contributors: *Rahsaan Thomas, Emile DeWeaver, Aaron Taylor, Juan Meza*

## Prison Switches To Solar Power

By Adnan Khan  
Journalism Guild Writer

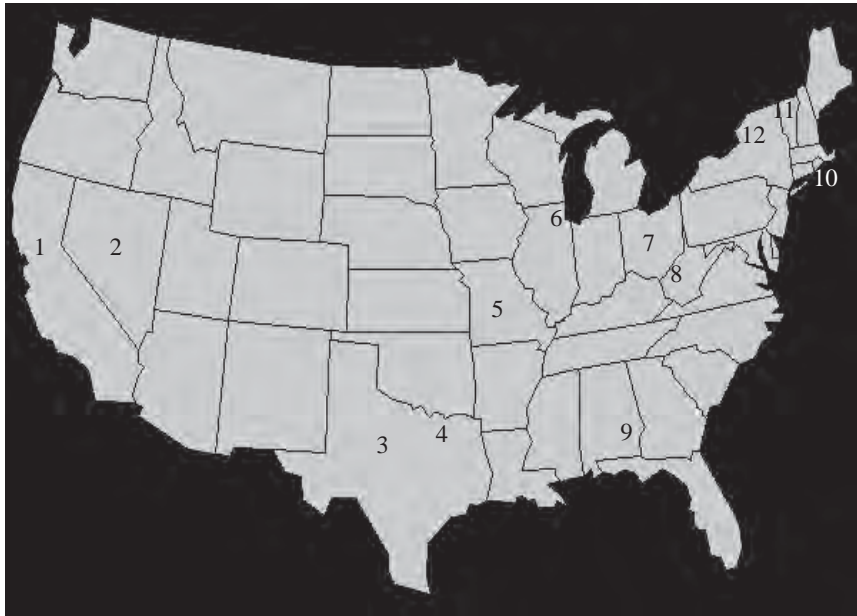
A California state prison and a state hospital have switched on solar power, reports the Central Valley Business Times.

Pleasant Valley State Prison and Coalinga State Hospital installed solar power as part of the state's effort to conserve cost and energy efficiency, the Times reports.

"Our use of solar energy is projected to reduce greenhouse gas CO2 emissions by more than 61,000 metric tons in 2014 and will save taxpayers approximately \$78 million in energy costs over the next 20 years," said Deborah Hysen, acting director of facility planning, construction and management for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the article adds.

Solar is expected to provide 24 percent of the hospital's electricity during the first year, reports the Fresno Bee. The projects can generate up to 3.22 megawatts of electricity, as part of the state's efforts to utilize clean technology in the fight against climate change, the article states.

## News Briefs



**1. Sacramento**—Ralph Michael Yeoman, 66, died while awaiting execution at San Quentin State Prison for a 1988 murder in Sacramento County, reports *The Associated Press*. Yeoman was sentenced to death in 1990 for the first-degree murder, kidnap and robbery of 73-year-old Doris Horrell. Since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976, 13 California inmates have been executed, while 66 have died from natural causes and 23 by suicide, the *AP* reports.

**2. Nevada**—Elko County now permits the sheriff to charge detainees for food and medical care. The county jail charges \$6 a day for meals, \$10 for each doctor visit and \$5 for initial booking into the jail. Those without funds would accrue a negative balance even after they are released.

**3. Texas**—State prison reforms have eliminated the need to build 17,000 more beds, saving taxpayers some \$3 billion, reports Chuck DeVore of the Austin-based *Texas Public Policy Foundation*. DeVore said the reforms have been achieved without reducing sentences.

**4. Dallas**—Police officials report 10 consecutive years of crime reduction in the city. According to Police Department numbers, violent crime has dropped 50 percent since 2003. Murders dropped from 154 in 2012 to 142 in 2013. In 2003, there were 226 murders in the city. Burglaries and thefts were also down. However, sexual assaults went up 13 percent in 2013 after significant drops

during the last 10 years.

**5. Missouri**—A federal appeals court ruled that “if the inmates’ lawyers can’t point to a more humane execution than lethal injection – such as hanging or firing squad – they are not entitled to discover more about the pharmacy hired by Missouri to make the drugs for the injections,” reports Jeremy Kohler of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

**6. Chicago**—Homicides fell 18 percent from 503 in 2012 to 415 in 2013, according to *The Christian Science Monitor*. Shootings

dropped 24 percent.

**7. Columbus, Ohio**—The inmate population is projected to reach a record 51,601 by June 30, 2014, reports *Cleveland.com*. That figure is 4,100 more than officials predicted in 2012. By 2019, the population is expected to reach 53,484. As of March 2, 2015, Ohio’s inmate population was 50,166.

**8. Charleston, W.Va.**—The state was seeking to send as many as 400 inmates now in its jails to an out-of-state private prison in Beattyville, Kentucky, owned

by Corrections Corporation of America, according to *West Virginia MetroNews Network*. CBS affiliate WOWK reported on Jan. 26, 2015, that West Virginia officials said they will not house inmates out of state.

**9. Montgomery, Ala.**—As a result of “a history of unabated staff-on-prisoner sexual abuse and harassment,” as reported by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Alabama is bringing in a nationally recognized consulting group to implement reforms, reports *The Associated Press*.

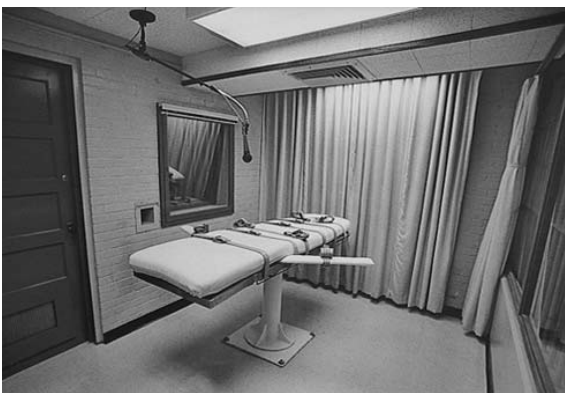
The DOJ report claimed guards “assaulted inmates, coerced inmates into sex, inappropriately watched inmates in the showers and bathrooms and were verbally abusive to inmates,” according to the *AP*.

**10. Cranston, R.I.**—The Americans Civil Liberty Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island has filed suit against the city of Cranston, claiming that the city’s redistricting plan is counting incarcerated people in its prison as if they are all residents of Cranston, reports the *ACLU*. The lawsuit alleges, “Because those incarcerated were counted as Cranston residents, three voters in the prison’s district have as much voting power as four voters in every other city district, according to Census Bureau data.”

**11. Vermont**—Of the state’s approximately 2,000 incarcerated people, the private prison firm Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) houses 450 inmates in Kentucky and 30 in Arizona. The state authorized up to \$61.7 million from 2011 to 2015 to house Vermonters in private prisons, according to *Rutland Herald* and *Times Argus Newspapers*.

**12. New York City**—Columbia University students are asking its administration to divest university investments of roughly \$8 million in the Corrections Corporation of America, reports *The Activist Lives for Knowledge*, a social justice platform at Columbia University. The group is circulating a letter, which can be found by emailing [columbiaprisondivest@gmail.com](mailto:columbiaprisondivest@gmail.com).

## Approximately 10 Counties Responsible For a Quarter of U.S. Executions



Inside Harris County’s Death Row

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

The *National Journal* has released a report on the death penalty showing that there are approximately 10 counties responsible for one quarter of the executions in U.S. prisons.

Dustin Volz, author of the article, placed a huge emphasis on the state of Texas, where four out of 254 counties have accounted for nearly half of the state’s executions. Though state governments are responsible for implementing the executions, death sentences are decided at the local government’s judicial level.

One of the main reasons that Harris County, Dallas County,

Tarrant County, and Bexar County account for nearly half of the state’s executions in Texas is due to the population of those counties. Harris County has over 4 million people, one of the largest counties in the country. That presents the likelihood of more crime due to sheer size of the population.

The Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) released data from a study it performed that highlighted the fact that 2 percent of counties account for more than half of all death-row sentences and executions. The DPIC argued that death sentences depend more on county location rather than the mitigating factors of the capital crime. In states like Califor-

nia, there are “special circumstance clauses” that have to be proven in order to seek a death sentence. However, there are states that allow the district attorney to decide whether to seek a death sentence.

Volz pointed out that in urban areas, particularly in southern states, district attorneys have a plethora of resources, which increases the possibility of achieving a death petition. The fact that urban areas have deeper coffers than smaller counties makes a difference when a district attorney’s office has to decide whether to aggressively pursue the death penalty. Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center said, “To take on a death penalty case, that’s a multi-year commitment of a million dollars or more. “If you’re in Houston, there are 200 attorneys in the DA’s office, at least. They can do a lot of death penalty cases.”

The more prosecutors are involved in death penalty cases the more experience they get, which ultimately results in a higher conviction success rate. This experience covers more than just court proceedings; experience allows prosecutors to develop the ability to pick favorable jurors when at the end of the trial they must make the declaration for death.

From a political viewpoint, prosecutors are elected at the local level. Kent Scheidegger, the chief lawyer for the Sacramento-based Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, suggested that the reason local prosecutors are elected is so that citizens of that county can have an influence on how cases are adjudicated. Their decision is largely based on the campaign platform of each candidate.

When looking at the history of Harris County’s high death penalty count, the credit can

be attributed to former District Attorney Johnny Holmes. According to Dieter, during Holmes’ 21-year D. A. stint he was responsible for more than 200 death row sentences. Since Holmes’ departure as district attorney of Harris County, there has been a dramatic decline in the number of death sentences.

Since the death penalty moratorium was lifted in 1976, there have been 1,397 executions in the United States and counting.

## Crimes Reflect Seasonal Patterns

By Ronell M. Draper  
Journalism Guild Writer

Many crimes follow seasonal patterns, a U.S. Department of Justice report concludes.

Highlights of the June 2014 report include:

- Aggravated assaults were highest during the summer; simple assaults were highest during the fall.
- Rape and sexual assault tended to be highest during the summer.
- Intimate partner violence was highest in the summer.
- Robbery rates exhibited no seasonal variation.
- Household larceny and burglary and vehicle theft were highest in the summer.
- Violence involving weapons and violence causing serious in-

jury are highest in the summer and fall.

• The data covered the United States from 1993 to 2010.

“When seasonal variations were found for violent victimization, the differences between the rates of the highest and lowest seasons were less than 12 percent,” the report said.

The last study in seasonal patterns in criminal victimization trends was performed between 1973 and 1977 by the National Crime Survey. In that study “burglaries were about 26 percent less frequent in the winter than in the summer, while in the more recent period, the winter versus summer difference in burglary was about 11 percent.”

The more recent findings indicate that criminal victimization has taken a drop over the years, the report said.

# Arts & Entertainment

*"The hardest fight a man has to fight is to live in a world where every single day someone is trying to make you someone you don't want to be." -e.e. cummings*

## Sudoku Corner

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

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

## Snippets

Jane Austen wrote an updated version of Aristotle's essay *Sense and Sensibility* approximately 2,159 years later. Austen's written piece was titled *Sense and Sensibility* in 1811.

Outdoor sports like baseball often require creative ways to help the eyes adjust to the sun. That is why the green underneath a baseball cap is created to stop the glare of the sunlight.

Under Napoleon's leadership, a massive statue of an elephant in France was ordered as a representation of his dominance.

Record of the fastest Braille reader was set by using both hands. The record holder said that using both hands helped make it easier to read one line at a time.

Not too many people know that Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the phone, had a mother and wife who were deaf.

Earning a title as one of the top 10 greatest female chess players, Diana Lanni, used chess as a way to defeat her drug habits and her battle with suicidal thoughts.

Years ago Chinese philosopher Confucius said, "To study and not think is a waste. To think and not study is dangerous." This was his reflection on study behaviors.



Lucia de la Fuente visiting hometown Mexico City, reading S.Q. News with her friend Tatiana in front of the old Cathedral at Zocalo

## Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

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\*Have made more than one donation



# San Quentin's Islamic Community Promotes Fellowship Through Competitive Basketball

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

More than 40 incarcerated men of Islam came to San Quentin's Basketball Gym for a day of camaraderie, spiritual fellowship, competitiveness, fun, frolicking and eating.

Before the game started, they all gathered at center court to hear West Block's Harun Taylor lead the Opening Prayer as Muslims from around the prison joined in a circle to recite the Islamic Opening Prayer together.

The brothers divided into two teams. Amir Shabazz coached Nur (way of light); Thomas Holmes coached the winning team, Haqq (way of truth). The score: 40-37.

"It wasn't about winning or losing; it's about brothers, greeting brothers," said Rahsaan Thomas of North Block.

However, after the basketball was tossed up to start the game and the adrenaline released into their blood stream, camaraderie temporarily ceased to exist and the competitiveness of the game took over.

Askari Johnson from North Block, who was the leading scorer on Haqq with 10 points,

## SPORTS

2 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal, got off to a fast start. However, he went cold in the second half.

Carl Bibbs from West Block showed a real passion for the game despite the fact that he scored only 7 points. He had four assists, stole the basketball from opposing players once and committed 2 fouls. His free throw was the 40<sup>th</sup> point, where the game ended.

West Block's big man David Bennett kept Nur from running fast breaks by dominating the backboards on both ends of the court. Even though he scored only 2 points, Bennett was the leading rebounder on Haqq with 7. He had 1 steal, 1 blocked shot and committed 3 fouls.

Antoine Brown from West Block played an all-around excellent game. He scored 6 points with 3 rebounds, but his intimidating defense kept Haqq in the lead throughout the first and second half.

Jerry Gearin from West Block came off the bench late in the first half, and his tenacity for the basketball kept Nur

from taking over the lead. His 6 points and 2 rebounds set the stage for the victory.

Rafeal "Nephew" Bankston demonstrated a lot of class when he came off the bench for Haqq with fire and desire to get into the flow of the basketball game. He quickly scored 4 points and grabbed 3 rebounds in the second half.

West Block's Robbie Robbins demonstrated his patience and knowledge of the game as he maneuvered his Haqq teammates into various shooting positions and gave them the basketball. He had 2 points, 2 assists, 2 rebounds and 3 fouls.

Zaid Nicksolson from West Block was not going to let Nur fall too far behind in the game. He took control of the basketball and led all scorers with 20 points, 12 rebounds. He had 1 steal with 2 fouls.

Nicksolson's teammate, point guard Taalib Batten from West Block, ran up and down the court with quick reactions to the basketball on both ends of the floor. He finished the game with 2 points, 4 rebounds and 2 steals.

Adnan Khan from North Block kept his eyes on the rim throughout the game.

He scored 5 points, had 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal and committed 2 fouls.

Dawud Irby from North Block played a well-balanced game on both ends of the court. He scored 4 points, and kept the opposing team from fast-breaking several times. Irby grabbed 5 rebounds and had 1 turnover that led to the other team scoring.

North Block's Thomas' 2 points were the highlight of the game. After making a 17-footer from the left corner of the court, he leaped six feet off the floor and shouted with such enthusiasm that his losing team thought he won the game.

Cory Woods from North Block played such a quiet basketball game, his teammates never realized he scored 3 points with 4 rebounds and committed 2 fouls.

North Block's Justus Evans demonstrated his passionate love of basketball. He simply enjoyed being in the game. His good spirit resonated as he ran up and down the floor and grabbed 2 rebounds for Nur.

West Block's Anthony Smith dominated the backboards on both ends of the court. He forced Haqq to alter several key shots with his intimidating inside play, causing his opponents to miss shots. He grabbed 7 rebounds and scored 2 points for the losing team.

Morceli Abdel, Mustafa Espinosa of Nur and Marcus Henderson from West Block of Haqq, entered the game late in the second half and chased the ball as it bounced and rolled around on the court. They kept up with the fast pace of the game as shot after shot was attempted at both ends.

## Soccer Players Looking to Recruit Outside Sponsor

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Avid soccer players long for an outside sponsor to elevate their team to the level of other sports programs in San Quentin.

"We would like to have a sponsor, but nobody at this point has taken up the reins," said G. "JoJo" Robinson, a recreation clerk who has been trying to find a soccer sponsor for five years.

Robinson played semi-pro soccer in St. Louis for the Jamaica Internationals and the U.S. Army.

***"We need somebody. We have nobody. We will appreciate anything that moves us forward"***

"We need somebody. We have nobody," said Jose Vieyra. "We will appreciate anything that moves us forward."

Vieyra, Robinson, and fellow inmate Jesus Lopez have been organizing soccer tournaments inside San Quentin. As many as four teams totaling 46 guys come out to play "futbol."

"Everybody plays together – different races; it doesn't matter," Lopez said.

Without a sponsor, their games have been limited to playing against other inmates and no equipment has been provided except soccer goal nets. Therefore, they play

without goalie gloves, shin guards, elbow pads or futbol boots.

"Playing the same inmates all the time doesn't elevate our game," said Juan Meza, a devoted soccer player.

"I would like us to have uniforms and equipment donated," said Robinson.

Meanwhile, the baseball, softball, tennis, flag football, basketball, and track all have outside sponsors and donated equipment, leaving soccer players feeling left out.

"We want the same opportunities the other sport programs have," said Meza.

"Anybody who experiences coaching a sport they love with San Quentin inmates will want to come in and coach all the time because of the warm thanks of appreciation the inmates will have," said Don DeNevi, recreational director.

Christian Sports Ministry sponsor Don Smith agrees.

"I believe passionately that what we're doing is good. That's why we stick around year after year," said Smith, who brings in basketball, softball and flag football teams.

Smith has agreed to try to recruit a soccer team to come in when the season starts again in March, but his hands are already filled, so he can't be the soccer coach or outside organizer needed.

"We need someone to coach us, organize games with outside teams and get equipment donated," said Robinson.

"We always practice to be ready for an opportunity to play outside teams," said Vieyra.

Anyone who is interested in coaching/sponsoring the soccer program should contact DeNevi at (415) 454-1460 ext. 6192.

## USF's Team Visit Helps San Quentin Players Connect



Photo by Peter Merts

University of San Francisco players posing with Inside Tennis Team after a friendly competition

By Harun Taylor  
Contributing Writer

College athletes visiting San Quentin help prisoners prepare for return to their communities, says University of San Francisco tennis coach Pablo Pires de Almeida.

"We may have opened the door to something really, really big. Our football, basketball, soccer and baseball teams are all interested in coming inside and playing against the guys here. Community support for programs like sports are a key for reentry," Almeida said during a visit late last year.

"This is my first time com-

ing inside a prison to play," said one of the players, Vasco Valvardi of Portugal. "I'm waiting to see what the game is going to be like." The players also represented Finland, Malaysia, and Denmark.

The USF tennis team brought in six players to go against the San Quentin Inside Tennis Team. The visitors won easily.

"The first time we came in, the play was decent," said Nick Valko. "The next trip, there was a vast improvement. I'm waiting to see if it's improved more."

"My guys come here for the experience of shared love of tennis," said the USF coach.

"The experience of coming inside, playing tennis in this environment – barbed wire and gun towers – it brings a certain irony to the game. You find love of the game at any level you find it."

"The first time I came in here, I won't lie: I was scared to death," said a visitor from Finland. "I mean, you see prison movies — riots, shivs and all that. However, once I came in here and saw the complete opposite, I was stunned. These people love tennis, and the environment isn't the Hollywood stuff. Everyone here is respectful and interested in positive work."

# Former Boxing Champ Leaves it All on the Canvas

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Former San Quentin resident and boxer Paul Nave ended his final bout on the canvas. He was defeated by 27-year-old Luis "Tijuana Tornado" Hernandez in the second round.

"I left it all in the ring, every time," Nave said after the match, according to a Feb. 1 article in the *Marin Independent Journal*, "Nave Comes Up Short As He Wraps Up Career," by Paul Liberatoro.

***"Nave, the 54-year-old 'Marin County Assassin,' wanted to cap his 30-year career with a 21st win in a farewell fight"***

Nave, the 54-year-old "Marin County Assassin," wanted to cap his 30-year career with a 21st win in a farewell fight at the Marin Center Exhibition Hall in San Rafael.

Nave got his weight down to 147 pounds for the match and headed to the ring with Frank Sinatra's "My Way" playing. He entered it rocking Italian flag colors, said the article.

Hernandez knocked him down in the second round and was awarded a technical knockout.

Previously Nave served three years in San Quentin State Prison on a 1990 conviction for selling cocaine. He was temporarily released for several bouts,



Photo by Robert Tong (Marin Independent Journal)

Marin boxer Paul Nave, right, throws a hard right against Luis Hernandez of Tijuana, Mexico, who is returning the favor during a four-round bout on Jan. 30 at the Marin Center Exhibition Hall in San Rafael. Hernandez won the bout

all of which he won. Back then, Nave wore black trunks with white stripes to show he was a convict.

Thirty-year San Quentin resident Lonnie Morris remembers Nave.

"He was sociable and well-liked. He never bought into the racial tension," said Morris. "He left San Quentin for a boxing match while still incarcerated."

In 2009, after nine years off and two back surgeries, Nave made a comeback. He gained his 20<sup>th</sup> and final victory in 2012, capping a five win, one loss run, according to the arti-

cle. He decided to come back again for a 21<sup>st</sup> win.

Nave is very well respected in the boxing world. Showing good sportsmanship, Hernandez raised Nave's hand in the air and told the crowd, "He's a true champion," according to the article. Several voices in the crowd responded, "We love you, Paul."

Andy Foster, director of the California State Athletic Commission, said he would like to give Nave a role in boxing as an official, a judge or a referee.

"He's done so much for the sport," the commissioner said.



Photo by L.L. Robinson

Nave shows and discusses triumphant victories earning championship titles on last visit to San Quentin

# Heavy Rain Not a Factor as Herena Sets 5K Record

By **Frank Ruona**  
Contributing Writer

Eddie Herena outpaced the 1000 Mile Club members who braved rainy conditions for posterity in the first-ever 5K race at San Quentin filmed by Flotrack.

"Watching the 21 runners hammer out that 5K in the pouring rain and have fun doing it was truly inspiring," said Taylor Dutch, the Flotrack host. "It was truly an unforgettable experience ...and by far my favorite project I have worked on for Flotrack."

"It felt excellent. We've never run a race in those conditions. It was unique," said Herena, 31, who bested everyone with a time of 18:25 running at a 5:57 minute per mile pace.

Herena's time established the 1000 Mile Club's 5K record in San Quentin.

"That record won't stand," commented Herena.

Flotrack is a new media outlet whose mission is to promote running. Many 1000 Mile Club runners had missed being filmed in a 2013 competition that was posted on Flotrack's web site. (<http://www.flotrack.org/coverage/250049-2013-Indoor-Track-and-Field-on-Flotrack/>



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Record holder, Eddie Herena outruns Abel Armengol to keep the lead in a training for the 5K race

[video/675936-San-Quentin-1000-Mile-Club#.VNfYKfnF8j4](http://www.flotrack.org/video/675936-San-Quentin-1000-Mile-Club#.VNfYKfnF8j4).

Those club members were determined to run, come hell or high water, to make sure they were included in the Feb. 6 videotaping.

Cinematographer Tyler Gerrell filmed this year's event. The rain cleared out the normal pedestrian traffic, leaving the lanes all clear for the competitors. However, the wet and

muddy conditions did cause some problems.

Several runners took spills, including Carlos Ramirez, who took a fall on the second lap and still came in second. The 36-year-old finished in 19:51, running at a 6:24 minute per mile pace.

"If Carlos hadn't fallen, it would have been a closer race," said Herena.

Herena took a fall of his own during the final .10 of a

mile when he ran across the grass on the baseball field to complete the race.

Morceli Abdel Kader, 33, was able to run fast enough to finish third in a time of 20:49, despite the rain and having a leg injury.

"You can't let the rain stop you from exercising," said Kader. "Running is good for you."

Right behind Kader came in Stephen Reitz, 38, in a time of 21:12. Larry Ford, 59, was the first finisher over 50, setting the 50 and older 5000-Meter record at 21:18.

Chris Schuhmacher, 41, ran a strong 22:14 to take sixth place and edge out seventh place finisher Vincente Gomez, 39.

Glen Mason, 52, and Michael Keeyes, 67, had a spirited battle for eighth, with Mason taking it by one second with a time of 22:41. Keeyes was the oldest runner.

Abel Armengol, 27, secured 10th place in 23:28.

Next was Louis Hunter, 54, in 23:58 followed by Clifton Williams, 53, in 24:53.

Newcomer Jonathan Chiu, 32, finished his first S.Q. race at 14th in 25:52.

He was followed by Darren Settlemyer, 48, who completed the 5K in 26:01.

Malcolm Jones, 56, came in at 26:21 followed by Tyrone Al-

len, 55, in 27:02.

Jonathan Hamilton, 27, signed up for the 1000 Mile Club the morning of the race and completed it in 27:26.

Eddie DeWeaver, 39, was seconds behind Hamilton with a time of 27:45. Right on DeWeaver's tail was Leroy Lucas, 39, finishing 14 seconds later.

Rahsaan Thomas, 44, ran in his work boots rather than his Adidas running shoes and took 21st place with a time of 31:20.

Marlon Beason, 34, closed out the race in 32:50.

The showers wet paper and washed away ink, which made keeping track of laps difficult for lap counters coaches Kevin Rumon and Diana Fitzpatrick, community volunteers Jim Morris and Jill Friedman, and San Quentin residents Dennis Barnes, Ralph Lignons, and Tone Evans.

"We had to poke holes in the paper to keep track of laps," said Rumon. "Nothing else worked."

After the race, Dutch conducted interviews with several runners for their next Flotrack San Quentin 1000 Mile Club feature.

"I'm blessed, and I thank God that I'm able to run the way I do," said Herena. "I really appreciate our sponsors for their support."

# Garden Program 'Rediscovered Faith in Human Spirit'

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Insight Garden Program was launched 12 years ago by a woman who had lost trust in mankind.

"Like millions of people across the country, the tragedy of 9/11 impacted me deeply. Essentially, I lost faith in humanity," said Beth Waitkus, founder and director of the garden project.

During the following months, Waitkus set out on a new journey in life. Her purpose was to rediscover her faith in the human spirit and to find good in the world.

This new journey led her to a volunteer training program at San Quentin. "It became evident that there was a vast need for prisoner support inside the prison walls – so when people leave, they don't come back," said Waitkus.

Exactly one year after 9/11, Waitkus and other members of the volunteer training program proposed creating a garden in San Quentin. An

additional year later, an actual garden was started on the yard of H-Unit.

With the garden came the Insight Garden class, along with a steady and enthusiastic class of inmate participants.

The class consists of a combination of curriculums designed to edify the inner-self, to inspire reformative thinking, to encourage social interaction and to develop a conscious-awareness of nature and its natural connection to everyday human life.

As custom, before class session begins, members take a reflective walk through the H-Unit garden. Inside the class, a circular seating arrangement is formed, followed by a group meditation. In the center of the circle sits the class mascot, a fern plant aptly named "Fern."

"Over the years, the evolution of our powerful curriculum, combined with gardening, has impacted more than 1,000 prisoners' lives. And we have witnessed the transformation of the human heart



Photo courtesy of Inside Garden Program

Beth Waitkus



Photo courtesy of Steve Emrick

Prisoners recognized for their work, harvesting edible vegetables to donate to a San Francisco food bank

time and time again," said Waitkus.

"Other inmates gave me positive feedback about the class," said inmate Will Brown, a newly enrolled participant of the Insight Garden class. "A former graduate of this program informed me how the class helped him weed out a lot of bad things in his life, which piqued my cu-

riosity."

There are two gardens in H-Unit. One consists of flowers and decorative plants. The other contains edibles, which are donated to a food bank in San Francisco.

Outside volunteers include representatives from Planting Justice, a Bay Area nonprofit organization that employs former inmates, a biology teacher

and long-time friends of Waitkus from many walks of life.

"People like her change the world for the better. When she interacts with us, she treats us like human beings," Brown said of Waitkus.

In an interview, Waitkus said her faith in humanity was restored, thanks in part to the gardening project. "Absolutely ... the world heals!"

## Inmate Fire Crews' Jobs Jeopardized After Prop. 47

By Antonio Alvarado  
Journalism Guild Writer

Officials in California counties are concerned that the passage of Proposition 47 will give the inmate fire crew programs uncertain futures, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

Proposition 47 reduces penalties on drug possession and nonviolent crimes, which could sharply reduce the number of jail inmates qualified for fire camp duties.

San Bernardino County officials are sorting out how the law affects inmate fire crews as well as other programs, sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller told the *Times* in a Nov. 12 story. "It could very well create an issue as far as having inmates eligible to be part of the inmate fire crew," she said.

"The inmates who could now be released from custody would be the ones that have the criminal history that allows them to be part of that program."

Fire crews are made up of nonviolent state prisoners. They have long been a major plus in helping protect California during fire season. About 4,000 offenders statewide participate, saving about \$80 million in firefighting annually.

The newspaper story focused on three former fire crew fighters: William Winegardner, 34, of Hesperia; Tim Johnson, 49, of San Bernardino; and James Jones, 26, of

Barstow.

They reported they have changed their views and attitude toward life in a positive way and become productive citizens, leaving their old ways of thinking behind and anticipating to live pro-social.

For Winegardner, the fire crew brought forth a transition in which he hopes will be a new life. "For me to even be considered to get on with them shows that I've done good here," Winegardner said. "Last time I didn't have a job to go to, I didn't have any of that. Now, I'm more confident. I know I'm going to do good this time."

Several inmates now are waiting on the list to join the crew, officials say. For many of the fire crew fighters, the community's gratitude has given them a sense of pride.

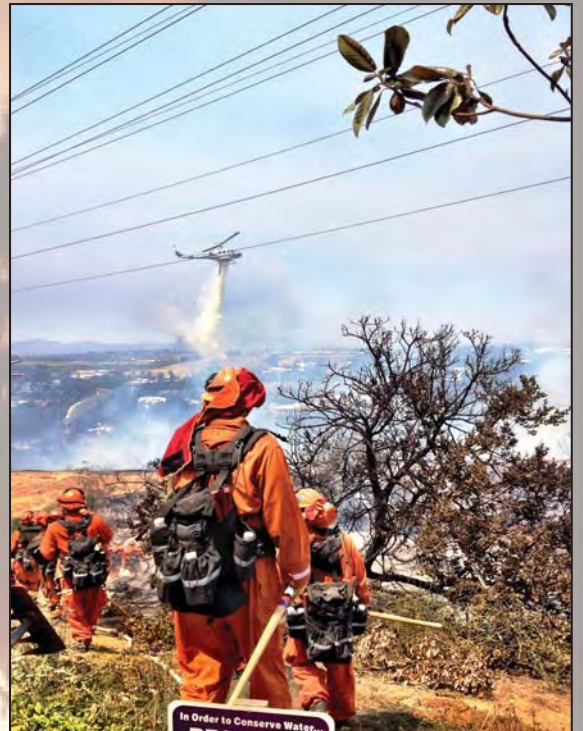
"Instead of people saying, 'Oh, here comes T.J., that drug

dealer,' they're like, 'Hey, here's T.J., the hard worker,'" said Johnson. "They respect me."

Jones has applied his free time to reading volumes of magazines and self-help books on long-term planning and overcoming addiction. He said being part of the fire crew has made him realize past mistakes, believing there is a second chance to capture.

"It's the opportunity of a lifetime," he said. "This whole program gave me a whole different motivation and reason to pursue a better future."

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Capt. Nina Jamson, the commander of Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center, said the inmate fire crew members "learn to remove themselves from what they used to do. And they're changing their attitudes and look at life differently."



File photo

Inmates fighting fires on a sunny day



From April 13 through 16, the American Correctional Association (ACA) is scheduled to audit San Quentin.

San Quentin prisoners may write ACA regarding their concerns or comments about this institution or the ACA accreditation process.

The address to write such concerns or comments is:

**American Correctional Association**  
206 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

ACA says its accreditation is only given after a visiting committee endorses an institution that shows compliance with its more than 500 standards, such as conditions of confinement, staff training, policy and procedure, continuity of care and health care. Compliance is proven in three ways: review of standard files, interviews with staff and inmates, and tour of the facility.

According to the ACA, their purpose is to "promote improvement in the management of correctional agencies through an accreditation program," and to "offer CDCR the opportunity to evaluate their operations against national standards, remedy deficiencies, and upgrade the quality of correctional programs and services."

California prison officials say they want to have all 34 prisons accredited by 2017.