

# San Quentin News

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## The Last Mile Presents The 'Future of Work'



Photo by Harold Meeks

Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, (A) Warden Ron Davis and Chief Deputy Warden Kelly Mitchell at the Last Mile Graduation

**By Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

Inmate entrepreneurs enrolled in The Last Mile, an entrepreneurship training program at San Quentin State Prison, presented their business proposals to an audience of

300 business executives, public safety officials and fellow inmates on March 27.

The presenters' business concepts were all phone applications that focused on such topics as youth empowerment, culture preservation and firearm safety. Many of the con-

cepts were developed from the entrepreneurs' experiences of what was lacking in their own environments growing up.

"I wish I'd had something to help me understand my emotions then," said participant

See *Last Mile's* on Page 10

## Gov. Brown Gets Second Chance to Reshape Courts

**By Chung Kao**  
Staff Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown has had his second chance to reshape the nation's most influential state

court, the California Supreme Court, according to *The New York Times*.

In his first term, nearly 40 years ago, Brown appointed the first female chief justice, Rose

E. Bird, to the California Supreme Court. Bird had never served as a judge and, along with two other judges Brown

See *Governor* on Page 7



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Women prisoners in the middle of a long day

## Women Prisoners On Fire Lines

**By Adnan Khan**  
Journalism Guild Writer

fires and clear potential fuel for future blazes.

Wearing orange pants and vests marked CDCR, an all-women inmate crew is helping California fight forest

"We wouldn't be able to do this without them," said Stephen Scatolini, restoration

See *Women* on Page 4

## Change Should Start While Incarcerated

'You need to start working on yourself while still in prison'



File Photo

Douglas Butler

**By James R. Abernathy Jr.**  
Journalism Guild Writer

If you want to change your life, you need to start working on yourself while still in prison, a former cop-turned-convict-turned-counselor advised a group of inmate writers.

If you think change will

start when you get out, that won't work, Douglas Butler recently told members of the San Quentin Journalism Guild.

"You have to practice in here, right now, to get clean and sober," he added.

Butler served seven years

See *Changing* on Page 8



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Justice  
Mariano-Florentino Cuellar



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Justice  
Leondra Kruger



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Justice  
Goodwin Liu



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# Father Williams Shares His Views of God and Other Religions

**By Gino Sevacos  
Journalism Guild Writer**

*This is the second half of an interview with Father George Williams, the Catholic Chaplain for San Quentin.*

*Would you share your view of the various faiths represented here at San Quentin?*

One of my ancestors was a Puritan pastor named Roger Williams.

He left the narrow and intolerant Puritan church in Boston (well, he was sort of kicked out of it) and moved to what is now Rhode Island (he founded the city of Providence) and created a place that welcomed people from other religious denominations and faiths.

He was way ahead of his time – Providence offered to provide sanctuary to Jews and Quakers, even Catholics, while back in Massachusetts they were hanging people for witchcraft in Salem. (Another one of my ancestors was accused of witchcraft but was found not guilty!)

Anyway, Roger Williams was a tolerant man with an open mind. I either inherited those genes or I am just inspired to follow his example in my life. I have always been interested in how other people view God – and I believe there is good and truth in every faith tradition.

I believe Jesus Christ is the savior of the world – but God can save people through him without necessarily adopting Christianity – in other words, God's mercy extends to all people who live and follow their faith tradition with devotion. So for me, it's not about needing to convert people to Catholicism, even though I think there is great beauty and wisdom in my faith tradition.

For me, it is more important to help men here come to know God as they understand God – and to deepen their spiritual connection with the Divine. I believe that God draws all of us closer to him and to the truth as long as our hearts are open to receive that love and truth.

So if a guy is Muslim, I would want him to be the best Muslim he can be, same for Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Hindus or whatever faith group you can imagine. The key is that the person needs to be willing to be open to the power of love in his life.

The danger to the spiritual life is any kind of excessive

fundamentalism in any religion that ends up creating a god in our image – a.k.a. an idol.

People become like the God they worship, so if they worship an intolerant, punishing, judge-in-the-sky kind of god, then it is no wonder they end up being intolerant, vengeful and judgmental in their own lives. Fear of God isn't about being afraid of God; it's about honoring and respecting the power of God as

San Quentin is the people in it – both those wearing blue and those wearing green.

I have found the staff here easy to work with and very professional. In Massachusetts, they looked at chaplains (and sometimes with good reason) with suspicion and distrust. Here I have felt welcome and have been treated as a colleague, not a nuisance.

The men in blue who I encounter most often are a pleasure to work with – there aren't a lot of differences with the guys here and those I knew in Massachusetts, except of course no one here speaks with a wicked "Bastin" accent.

I have enjoyed working with men on Death Row too. That is a place of contrasts. There are deep and troubling shadows there – spiritually it is a dark place – but there is also light and humor and humanity there – and that outweighs the heaviness and darkness of the place.

In your opinion, what is good and bad about the criminal justice system?

I think we have to own up to the institutionalized racism in our criminal justice system. That's the most obvious flaw I think and because of it many lives and communities have been disrupted and damaged.

I'm working on a Ph.D. now in criminal justice. I started in 2007, when I was in Boston, long before I knew I'd be out here. Our prisons could be more



Photo by Sam Hearn

Father George Williams in front of the Chapel

humane places than they generally are (San Quentin being an exception) – and it's a serious problem that we imprison so many of our people – way more than any other advanced countries do.

My impression of corrections workers is that they do the best job they can – but the public seems uninformed and oblivious to many of the issues around prisons.

I think too that starting in the 1980s the U.S. went on a prison binge that was fueled by a cynical political "get tough on crime" mentality that has not served our society well. So fairly radical change has to happen – but I imagine it will take time for us as a society to figure a way out of it.

I see many hopeful signs though – such as the changes in the Three Strikes law and the way that a lot more lifers are getting a chance for parole, which wasn't possible only a few years back.

I have always been impressed with the number and quality of programs here – it makes the place much more humane than other prisons I worked in back East. But the best thing about

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**  
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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism  
In collaboration with students from the

**Journalism Guild**  
**of SAN QUENTIN**

**BEHIND THE SCENES**  
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**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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# Report: 4 in 10 County Jail Inmates Await Sentencing

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

In a report published by the Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics, nationwide, "Four in 10 [jail] inmates were sentenced or awaiting sentencing." White inmates were 47 percent, blacks represented 36 percent and Hispanics comprised 15 percent of the male population incarcerated by the end of June 2013.

About six out of 10 jail inmates were not convicted during this period but were incarcerated awaiting court action on a current charge, a rate unchanged since 2005. The report said, "The majority of the jail inmates were held in less than 10 percent of the jails. The largest jails (those with an average daily population of 1,000 or more inmates) held 48 percent of the inmate population at midyear 2013 but accounted for 6 percent of all jail jurisdictions nationwide."

"In comparison, the small-

est jail jurisdictions held 3 percent of all jail jurisdictions...Combined, these jail jurisdictions accounted for 18 percent of all inmates. Jail jurisdictions with an average daily population of 250 to 999 inmates accounted for 17 percent of all jail jurisdictions, but held 31 percent of all inmates at midyear 2013," the report said.

***"The number of persons admitted in 2013 was 16 times the size of the average daily population (731,352)"***

"The average daily population (ADP) is derived by the sum of inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year (i.e., between July 1, 2012,

and June 30, 2013)," it was reported.

During a 12-month period, local jails processed 11.7 million inmates. The report noted, "The number of persons admitted in 2013 was 16 times the size of the average daily population (731,352)."

At the end of June 2013, more than a third of inmates admitted were sent to the largest jails. According to the report, "In comparison, jail jurisdictions holding fewer than 50 inmates accounted for 7 percent of all jail admissions. For these jails, the number of inmates admitted was 34 times the size of the ADP."

The female inmate population increased 10.9 percent (up 10,000 inmates) between midyear 2010 and 2013, an average of 1 percent each year between 2005 and 2013.

California jails experienced an increase of approximately 12,000 inmates between midyear 2011 and midyear 2013 following the passage of the California Public Safety Realignment.



File Photo

San Francisco County Jail

## S.F. Jail Explores Restorative Justice

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

A jail in San Francisco is exploring a new concept in criminal justice called restorative justice – an alternative to traditional criminal justice that focuses on healing victims and offenders alike.

"The most important thing is to be accountable, but in order to work on yourself, you have to be comfortable," said Christopher Gillis, 44, facing murder and commercial burglary charges.

Gillis was one of 48 men enrolled in a four-day restorative justice workshop focusing on jail design, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Aug. 19.

"I feel an extra sense of purpose today," said Lamar Paschall, 32, charged with kidnapping, rape and robbery. "Hopefully this can become fruitful and turn into something real down the line."

The workshop was for men awaiting trial in the San Francisco jail who agreed to participate in a program called "Resolve to Stop the Violence."

This workshop allows them to explore their feelings about the system that landed them there.

Regarding jail design, Anthony Pratt, 29, pictures an airy room with a skylight to allow for sunlight and a fountain with cascading waterfalls to represent resilience. He added windows and privacy barriers

for the shower and toilet areas.

Instructor Barb Toews, a restorative justice practitioner, conducted a 13-inmate workshop at a Pennsylvania prison, with most participants having committed murder. The men were defensive and reluctant to share their feelings. She asked, "What would a room look like where you could face anything you've done and be accountable for it" Together they created a vision and called it "Do No Harm" room.

Designer Deanna VanBuren encourages big architectural firms to hold similar workshops, "The goal is to empower those inside the institutions and prod architects to actually talk to the people they are designing for" because "that's how an architect would practice in any other setting."

Critics of restorative justice contend the process could lead to disparate remedies, making some victim organizations and hard-line prosecutors reject it. Nonetheless, the practice has spread globally.

Theorist Howard Zehr promoted restorative justice concepts in the 1970s. As consensus builds that traditional criminal justice models are failing to prevent recidivism, VanBuren and fellow instructor Toews, an academic, have joined a small chorus of designers, researchers, judges and wardens calling for new spaces to match the tenets of restorative justice, the *Times* reported.

## 67% in U.S. Favor Treatment Over Jail for Drug Users

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

Sixty-seven percent of Americans favor drug treatment rather than jail or prison for non-violent drug users, a Pew Research Center report concludes.

"The public appears ready for a truce in the long-running war on drugs," the Pew report says.

Just 26 percent of Americans think the government's focus should be on prosecuting users of illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

The Pew report issued in April says the public is now looking at treatment of drug users as a change in the long-running war on drugs.

The report says the public has positive views of doing away with mandatory jail times for non-violent drug crimes, with 63 percent in fa-

vor and 32 percent against.

U.S. drug policy is at a pivotal time of national debate on how to deal with drug abuse. A bipartisan effort in Congress would give federal judges discretion for sentencing low-level cases that now require lengthy mandatory sentences.

***"The public appears ready for a truce in the long-running war on drugs"***

The Pew report says 81 percent of blacks want the government to focus on treatment of illegal drug users. The ethnic difference is 66 percent of whites and 61 percent of His-

panics favor treatment.

On the issue of marijuana, Pew reports about 76 percent of Americans say if marijuana is not legalized, the penalty for possession of small amounts should not be jail time, compared with 22 percent favoring jail time.

"The federal government's annual survey on drug use in the United States finds that the use of illicit drugs has increased over the past decade, in part because of a rise in marijuana use," the report says.

"The government treats marijuana as an illicit drug; marijuana is now legal for medicinal use in 18 states and the District of Columbia and for recreational use in two others (Colorado and Washington)."

The Pew survey was conducted in February among 1,821 adults.

## Attorney General Eric Holder Supports Obama's Effort to Reduce Sentences for Nonviolent Offenders

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, with support from President Obama, "created the federal reentry council in 2011 as part of an effort to reduce sentences for drug and other nonviolent offenders, and thereby reduce prison populations," explained Kati Gray in an article for *The Crime Report*.

According to Gray, eight formerly incarcerated persons and officials from the Obama administration met in late October to discuss America's prison crisis and tough-on-crime law-

makers.

The meeting was arranged by the U.S. Attorney General Office's Interagency Reentry Council to focus on equitable sentencing and introduce Washington policymakers to the shareholders of nonprofit organizations like Just Leadership USA.

### INTERVIEW

In an interview with Gray, former inmate Glenn Martin, who participated in the meeting, said, "What we are asking for is a system ... that is

really based on social justice." He contends that "hoped-for reduction is not as farfetched as it may seem, considering that New York state has cut its prison population by about 25 percent over the last 18 years."

Martin, who launched Leadership USA, hosted a 10-month-long training for ex-inmates wanting to participate in the national debate over crime, courts and corrections policy and reform. Their training focused on organizational development, fundraising, marketing, public relations and

other skills that would help them make their voices heard.

### DIALOGUE

One of the officials at the meeting in Washington D.C. was Amy Solomon, a senior adviser at the U.S. Justice Department, who administers Holder's federal reentry council. She "agrees that it's important that anyone with a stake in criminal justice be a part of the dialogue about that system."

Martin told Gray that Just Leadership USA's mission is to shift the paradigm of the

criminal justice debate by appealing to the compassion and common sense of Americans.

According to *The Crime Report*, momentum for changing America's sentencing and incarceration policies got a boost with a \$50 million Open Society Foundation grant to the American Civil Liberties Union "for its efforts to tackle incarceration rates that have remained relatively steady even as the nation's crime rate overall has declined in recent years."

—By Charles David Henry



# L.A. County D.A. Expects Jail Overcrowding Lawsuit

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

Los Angeles expects a lawsuit will challenge the overcrowding and poor conditions in its jails resulting from Realignment, the county district attorney says.

"You know another lawsuit is coming," says L.A. District Attorney Jackie Lacey. "We're

next."

Imagine triple-stacked bunk beds spaced one foot apart with toilets placed in the middle rows without partitions. This describes one of the temporary living quarters crammed with more than 200 inmates at the Men's Central Jail (MCJ) in Los Angeles.

According to Christina Vilacorte of the *L.A. Daily News*,

Sheriff's Capt. Daniel Dyer grimaced during a recent inspection as he pointed out the men having to eat and sleep a few feet from the toilets. "That's just wrong," he said.

MCJ was built in 1963 and has a long history of failing pipes, rusted gates, broken doors, leaking sewage, failing air conditioning systems. Most of the businesses that produced replacement parts to repair these problems no longer exist.

Juan Hernandez, a drug offender said, "Attitudes are popping off." Another drug offender, Andy Gurule, said he preferred being homeless on the streets rather than being held at MCJ.

Prison Realignment (AB 109) has pushed this overcrowding to the point of forcing L.A. County to hold more than two or three state prison populations. MCJ's population was about 15,000 three years ago and it now holds 19,000 – 4,000 more than government regulations allow, the newspaper reported.

Gov. Jerry Brown has created a crisis by requiring counties to keep low-level offenders who were once shipped to a state prison, noted County Assistant Chief Executive Officer Ryan Alsop.

The federal courts prompted Realignment when California prisons were declared so over-



L.A. District Attorney Jackie Lacey



Los Angeles County jail sheriffs and prisoners

crowded they violate the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

The price tag to fix the MCJ situation permanently is a whopping \$1.7 billion to de-

molish the facility and build a modern corrections facility on that site, according to a recent environmental study requested by the county Board of Supervisors.

## Women Firefighters Work Hard to Give Back to Society

*'We wouldn't be able to do this without them,' says State Parks official*

*Continued from Page 1*

specialist for California State Parks, as the female workers worked to clear dying Torrey pine trees infested with bark beetles.

"The trees we have to take out are the big, thick trees that take a long time to die," Scatolini told the *San Diego Reader*, which reported the story Jan. 23.

"The trees weigh tons," said CAL FIRE Capt. Mitch Hubbard.

CAL FIRE shared space and training with a carefully selected and trained group of state-prison inmates who deployed to fight fires, clear brush and work on state and county park land projects, the article reads.

***"They come away with a skill set that will help them transition when they're released"***

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation made history when Rainbow Conservation Camp #2 became an all-female camp in 1983, the article reports. CDCR also has a number of all-male inmate firefighter crews around California.

"It's a very rigorous training," said camp commander

Lt. Harriet Woods. "We have a six-week program that includes physical fitness, fire suppression and emergency response."

The women on the crews are paid less than \$1.50 an hour and often send the money home, the story said.

"They can receive a useful job reference, and they know they can apply to CAL FIRE – it has actually happened that CAL FIRE has hired our crew members," Woods said. "They come away with a skill set that will help them transition when they're released."

"They are minimum custody – lower offenders and are more trustworthy and trusted. For a lot of the women, this is the first time they have been trained and supported and are working for an hourly wage."

One of the women firefighters said, "I feel like I'm giving back for what I did."

Another of the women said, "We live together; we eat together; we're like a family. It can get tricky out here, and we look out for each other."



Female prisoners cut down trees and clear flammable branches and leaves

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



# Officer Davis Walks His Last Mile in San Quentin

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Contributing Writer

For three decades, Correctional Officer Keith Davis walked the gun rails and halls of San Quentin State Prison. Now on the eve of his retirement, he says the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation still has work to do.

Davis, 57, said that in all the time he has been a correctional officer at San Quentin, it has only been in the last few years that the CDCR made strides toward creating better conditions for inmates.

"San Quentin is the flagship of CDCR, but there's still much work to be done in the area of providing education and viable trades, so that those leaving prison will be better prepared to stay free of criminal activity," Davis said.

CDCR needs to be more inmate-asset driven instead of punishment driven, said Davis. This he thinks can only be done through education that is innovative, like the computer coding class at San Quentin.

"On this issue San Quentin did a great job. We are producing men who will be able to code when they parole. Now that is how it should be. Give these men a viable trade, and they won't recidivate," said Davis.

Davis said he learned from inmates by listening to them and by watching how lengthy prison terms shape those behind bars.

"I got the chance to see what time does to men who spend, 10, 20, even 30 years or more behind bars. I've witnessed the psychological deterioration of those I thought would make it through this experience, juxtaposed against others who were weak when they arrived at San Quentin but became stronger.

"Lengthy incarceration is a waste of human potential and tax money. It puts people in a time vacuum where life has ceased and doesn't move for-

ward or backward, it just exists," said Davis.

ward or backward, it just exists," said Davis.

Davis said the dynamics of incarceration are built on people and that no one can sit in an office and determine how to relate to people in prison. That's why he thinks CDCR is in the shape

shape their lives and those lives around them," Davis said. "This is why a man or woman making decisions from behind a desk and not on prison grounds will hurt the department, as it already has."

Davis said he would also use

his retirement to continue to fight for justice for his son who was murdered Dec. 28, 2012.

"There are still no arrests but three of the four shooters are

After all these years, Davis said those who can help him gain closure still refuse to come forward. The man who did this has committed similar crimes in Texas.

"The person that killed my son arranged robberies and then later kills his partners," And he's done this in California too. This is a pattern for him," said Davis.

Davis said his son was killed because he looked like another young man. The perpetrator knew Davis' son was not the person he wanted, but he used a weapon that sprayed bullets at the area where his son was sitting with his friends.

"Yeah, my son was trapped on the porch area. There was no way for him to get away from that, absolutely no way at all," said Davis.

"Certain people, who've professed love for my son, know who killed my son, so how can you profess love for my son and on a daily basis you let his killer stay free?" asked Davis. "It's really simple; he shot my son so he'll probably do it to those protecting him sooner or later."

Davis said while the pain of losing his son is one that he feels every day, he is moving forward and will miss several of his colleagues at San Quentin.

"I've met and made some good friends over the years. And I've learned that what makes a good correctional officer is a large dose of common sense, the ability to apply that common sense, and the willingness to see inmates as human beings, not something that's less than human. Now a bad correctional officer is one who uses his or her position to belittle an inmate. One thing I know is anyone can make a mistake and come to prison, and that's a fact," he said.



Photo by L. Robinson

Officer K. Davis working at the West Block desk

## Alliance for Change Wonders: 'What Would You Do?'

By Richard Richardson  
Design Editor

To prepare inmates for release from prison, one of San Quentin's self-help groups puts them through real-life situations with all sorts of typical complications thrown at them.

Known as Alliance for CHANGE (Creating Hope and New Goals Ethically), or AFC, the group's mission is to facilitate the pre- and post-release socialization of prisoners, in order to increase successful reintegration into the community.

AFC pursues its mission by creating a unique "virtual" environment, utilizing realistic situations, to teach and encourage participants to embrace community standards.

The Virtual Community helps participants develop parole and relapse-prevention plans. They also learn how to fill out job applications, create resumes and their own cover letters.

Participating inmates are taught what to wear and how to conduct themselves during a job interview, how to establish credit, create a budget,

open a bank account and apply for government assistance, if necessary. The course includes filling out an application for an identification card and taking the DMV written test for driving.

Seven participants in the current class have been "virtually" released from a half-way house and forced to reintegrate back into society on their own. They are assumed to be living in an area where the crime rate is high and the income is low.

The AFC Virtual Community "provided" the returning citizens with good-paying jobs and helped them fill out an application for an apartment. They had the choice of whether or not to have a roommate.

Within the first 72 hours, these returning citizens had to report to a parole officer.

Complications arise, however. One individual called "Tick" bumps into a "homeboy" from his old neighborhood gang. Tick considers the guy a lifetime friend.

Another participant, "Tack" runs into his ex-girlfriend, who invites him to come over to her house whenever he finds the time.

So far three parolees in the Virtual Community have already violated parole because they lacked the support system that they needed and relapsed back into their drug-addicted behavior. The other four are struggling to stay focused on becoming productive citizens in their neighborhoods. (See note below: What Would You Do?)

These are some of the typical scenarios thrown at the participants in the Virtual Community.

Aside from the Virtual Community training, the prisoners learn social justice theories, such as Procedure, Distributive, Retributive, Transitional, Community, Restorative Justice and Transformative Justice.

- Procedural Justice has to do with how decisions are made and fairly implemented, which makes people feel respected. Consistency, impartiality, participation and transparency are all key principles underlying Procedural Justice.

- Distributive Justice means that community rights and resources are evenly applied and that there are common advantages and common burdens in

the community.

- Retributive Justice is a theory of justice that considers punishment, if proportionate, to be the best response to crime. The retributive model emphasizes deterrence and punishment through the criminal justice process.

- Transitional Justice refers to various types of measures throughout the world that deal with human rights issues, including criminal prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations programs and various kinds of institutional reforms.

- Community Justice confronts crime by active problem-solving aimed at prevention, control, reduction and reparations of the harm wrongdoing has caused. The goal is creating and maintaining vital, healthy, safe and just communities, and improving the quality of life for all citizens.

- Restorative Justice focuses on victims' and offenders' needs, as well as the community's needs, instead of abstract legal principles or punishment. It is based on the belief that offenses occur against individuals or the community, not the state.

- Transformative Justice is a theory that justice cannot be obtained by mass incarceration, but through community involvement.

After graduation, AFC encourages inmates to continue participating in their virtual world while learning to deal with the challenges that parolees face as returning citizens.

The latest group of 29 participants began training in February.

Graduates who complete the AFC program are welcomed back as mentors to new participants.

### What Would You Do?

Tell us what you would do if you were in the same predicament of either Tick or Tack. Or, if you have a suggestion about a problem you'd like AFC to address. Send your response to San Quentin News, 1 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94974.

# Paroled 'Lifers' Deserve Drug Diversion

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

## EDITORIAL

A decade and a half ago, Californians passed a ballot measure to provide drug offenders with treatment instead of jail time. Recently, a state appeals court clarified Proposition 36, saying addiction treatment must be given, unless the offender poses a danger to the public.

The case stems from a parolee who was sentenced to county jail for drug possession. After the jail term, he was given a parole violation and sent to state prison. He challenged the prison sentence, saying he should have been given drug treatment according to the 2000 ballot measure, and the court agreed that he should not have been sent to prison.

As I reflect on my own struggles, the concept of drug rehabilitation instead of prison is personal because all the crimes I committed were directly tied to my addiction.

Now, as I wait to see if I will qualify for the elderly parole program known as SB 224, which would allow me to appear before the parole board and seek suitability, I envision getting out of prison after 15 or 25 years and going home to my loved ones. Release in 15 years would be contingent upon SB 224 passing, while release within 25 years would be possible under the current policy.

I'm excited by the prospect of not waking up to a guard's

voice blaring over a loud speaker, chow release fifth tier, work release, the yard opening or hearing my name being called to report somewhere. It will be a new life once I get out of prison, and there will be a set of rules different from those I have dealt with while locked up.

*"You didn't learn  
the first time.  
Maybe this time  
you'll learn  
something"*

I envision having a job and making new friends. My new friends will probably be accustomed to going out for a beer or two after work. When they do, I won't be able to join them because I can't drink. I don't want to be in an environment where I could easily slip up.

But as much as I try to be careful, there's always "The Test."

It will happen one day when one of my new friends edges me on, not understanding that I must abide by a different set of rules.

I'm familiar with this type of peer pressure. The old me had so many tests like this,

brought about when I didn't want to feel left out by not joining the party. Back then I failed those tests by not recognizing how peer pressure made my addiction harder to deal with.

It took me years of incarceration and programs to understand why I felt the way I did. I learned I had abandonment issues and was afraid, and that I wanted to be accepted — to fit in.

My drug and alcohol addiction led me to commit crime after crime. Each time, when I was caught and put in jail, I would beg for help. However, the system wasn't geared to look at my addiction and how I dealt with it differently.

In 1974, a judge told me, "You didn't learn the first time. Maybe this time you'll learn something." I was sent to prison, where the help I needed was not available, yet drugs were everywhere.

It wasn't that I didn't want to learn as the judge said; I just didn't know what I had to learn. I didn't know about techniques that would help me change my criminal or addictive thinking or how to manage my emotions. That's what addiction does to you, and it's something the criminal justice system needs to understand. Many courts and substance abuse experts have only recently found that ad-

dition is not a crime, but a disease.

Looking back on my life, what I've learned is that it doesn't matter where an addict is — if they ask for help and are not helped, their negative behavior will continue. Addicts who are locked up need more opportunities for treatment. If not, bad choices will continue to negatively affect everybody — guards, prisoners and, once released, the community again.

The solution is not so difficult. No matter the crime, if an individual is suffering from addiction, the best policy is treatment. Treating the addiction would stop the criminal behavior that drives them to support the drug habit. It would make the community safer by default.

Lately, some lifers are being sent back to prison because of substance abuse. They're explaining where they went wrong to the board, to their fellow inmates and to their supporters.

Seeing inmates returned to prison for being under the influence made me consider the idea behind Prop. 36 and the different set of rules applied to convicts and parolees.

All of the lifers who are back because they violated the substance abuse clause in their parole terms must appear before the parole board for a

suitability hearing. The question the board should ask itself is basic: "Did using drugs while on parole make you a danger to public safety?" If the answer it finds is "yes," the inmate has to reappear before the board in a year and try again. This process can go on indefinitely.

The same dilemma has another feature for lifers who are doing time and need to establish a parole date: If that person is caught using drugs in prison and given a rules violation, then he or she has to explain to the board why they were using drugs and why treatment was not sought.

Most of the time, the board tells the person to get treatment and schedules the next parole date at three years. There's a provision that allows the person to come back in one year, if there are extraordinary circumstances or new evidence to support an earlier hearing. But, in the extreme case, the board is fully authorized to schedule the next hearing 15 years later.

In California, there are multiple ways to deal with addiction, depending on who is evaluating the person and where that person is living. If the addict is on the streets, there is one set of rules. If the person is locked up, there's another.

I end with this question: If someone has cancer and treatment requires several doses of chemotherapy to cure him, is locking him up for treatment necessary?

## State Court Increases Scrutiny of Death Penalty Cases

GOV. BROWN APPOINTED JUDGES CONSIDER NEW FORENSIC TESTIMONY LAW

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

In January, the California Supreme Court ruled that the death sentence of a man with a long criminal record was appropriate. On March 11, that ruling was rescinded.

The turnaround came after two justices appointed by Gov.

Jerry Brown, Mariano-Florentino Cuellar and Leandra R. Kruger, were sworn into the court on Jan. 5.

On the date they were sworn in, the previously constituted court issued a 4-3 ruling leaving in place a death sentence for Gary Lee Grimes.

Grimes' lawyer requested the court to reconsider its ruling,

and some anticipated it would. Grimes was convicted of capital murder committed during a home invasion. In the penalty phase of the trial, the trial judge excluded testimony that would have supported evidence that Grimes was not the actual killer, and the judge sentenced him to death.

Cuellar and Kruger joined

the dissenters in deciding to rehear the case in the prior ruling, as did Justices Goodwin Liu, another of Brown's appointees, and Kathryn M. Werdeger. The decision vacated the prior ruling and set the case for a new hearing.

None of the three Brown appointees previously served as judges. Liu and Cuellar were law professors, and Kruger was a U.S. Assistant Attorney General.

The Brown appointees may steer the court to decide to take a second look at another death penalty case, that of William Richards. Liu dissented in a 4-3 decision in 2012 that upheld Richards' murder conviction.

After three trials, Richards was convicted of killing his wife. Two of the trials resulted in hung juries. A dental expert in the third trial identified Richards' bite mark on his wife, but recanted the testimony after the jury returned a guilty verdict.

The California Legislature

later passed a bill adding discredited forensic testimony as grounds for a new trial. The California Innocence Project has asked the California Supreme Court to consider the case again in light of the new law.

*"Brown certainly  
seems to have  
reshaped this  
court in a fairly  
dramatic way"*

"Brown certainly seems to have reshaped this court in a fairly dramatic way," said Jan Stiglitz, a co-founder of the California Innocence Project. "Brown has brought in not just people from the outside but also people who don't have this background that sort of predisposes them to be cynical in criminal cases."

## Dedicated Volunteer Backs SQ Programs

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: Susanne Karch

Please accept my congratulations and gratitude for the high quality journalism your paper provides. I'm a volunteer for The Last Mile program, and just as you give voice to prisoners across the state, I'd like to give voice to my experiences here at San Quentin. I live in Marin County where I drove by San Quentin for 25 years without giving much thought to what goes on inside prison.

The men I saw on the first day I volunteered were what people generally expect: men with tattoos and troubled pasts. Then I met the men, talked to them, and they stunned me with how

intelligent and thoughtful they were. Since my first day, I've witnessed human potential at its very best.

I've seen people who have EVERYTHING stacked against them triumph personally by learning skills that every high school and college student should learn. I have witnessed a desire to learn and a level of gratitude for everything received that humbles anything I've seen among my more enlightened Marin friends. I've seen the possibility of what can happen when someone is seen and heard, and given an opportunity to shine.

I'm grateful to The Last Mile for giving so many men this opportunity to shine and



Susanne Karch

for providing me with the occasion to learn about myself. Here's wishing that more and more prisons in the United States see the light and seriously focus on the "R-Word" — Rehabilitation.

To read the full letter, go to [thelastmile.org](http://thelastmile.org).

### CORRECTIONS:

**Mach issue Editorial by Arnulfo T. Garcia, Editor-in-Chief, "Figuring out I was in Fact a Gang Member," it said that Tracy Smith was "... an innocent young woman..." Tracy Smith was an innocent young man.**



# Brown Signs Bill to Trim Obstacles for Applicants with Criminal Records

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation aimed at eliminating obstacles faced by people with criminal records applying for certified nursing assistant licenses.

The measure, Senate Bill 1384, removes the requirement that the state Department of Public Health deny certified nursing assistant licenses for applicants who have certain convictions on their records.

Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, introduced the bill. It was supported by the San Francisco-based civil rights organization Equal Rights Advocates but was opposed by the health department, according to a report by Sam Levin

of *The East Bay Blog News, Seven Days*.

The bill removes the practice of automatic rejections, or mandatory denials, while keeping in place the department's ability to deny individuals found not suitable for certification, Levin reported.

"The blanket exclusion of women who apply for CNA jobs solely on the basis of their conviction history means that they are being punished once again after they have served their time. These are women who ... are rehabilitated, and who are trying to make a living wage to support their families," Mitchell said in a statement.

Under current law, there are approximately 70 offenses, some non-violent, that lead to

an automatic rejection of nursing assistant license, Levin notes.

Supporters of SB 1384 call it a reform and point out that a key element to reducing recidivism is access to employment, and that past criminal convictions do not necessarily dictate that a prospective employee's performance will be less than satisfactory, adds Levin.

"SB 1384 would limit (the health department's) ability to deny a nursing assistant application ... and removes (its) ability to adequately protect patients," says an opposition letter signed by Monica Wagoner, a deputy health department director, according to Levin.

Levin adds some SB 1384 supporters pointed out that

many health-care professions, such as dentists and mental health workers, are not automatically denied licenses or certifications as result of a conviction.

"SB 1384 gives people the chance to prove - through character and employment references, certificates of training and treatment, and other relevant evidence - that they have overcome the significant life obstacles that led to their convictions," Mitchell noted.



California Sen.  
D-Los Angeles Holly Mitchell

## Gobernador Firma Proyecto de ley en Bien de Ex-Convictos

Por Thomas Gardner  
Escritor del Gremio  
Periodístico

El gobernador Jerry Brown ha firmado una legislación dirigida a eliminar los obstáculos

que enfrentan las personas con registro criminal que aplican para obtener licencias certificadas para asistentes de enfermería.

La acción, Senate Bill 1384, elimina el requisito que el De-

partamento de Salud Pública del estado impone y que les niega el derecho a licencias certificadas para asistentes de enfermería a solicitantes que tienen ciertas condenas en su historial criminal.

Senadora Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, presentó la póliza. Esta fue apoyada por la organización de derechos civiles, Defensores de la Igualdad de Derechos, con base en San Francisco, pero fue bloqueada por el departamento de salud, de acuerdo a un reporte de Sam Levin del *East Bay Blog News, Seven Days*.

Levin informó, que esta póliza elimina la práctica de rechazos automáticos o negaciones obligatorias, mientras el departamento retiene su capacidad para negar la certificación de individuos que no son elegibles.

"La exclusión general de las mujeres que solicitan empleo en la CNA basados únicamente en su historial delictivo significa que están siendo castigadas nuevamente, después de haber cumplido sus sentencias. Estas son mujeres que...están rehabilitadas, y que están tratando de ganarse la vida para sustentar a sus familias," Mitchell comentó en un comunicado.

Levin comentó que, bajo la ley actual, existen aproximadamente 70 ofensas, algunas no incluyen violencia, que llevan a una rechazo automático de una licencia para asistente de enfermería.

Levin agregó que, partidarios

del SB 1384 exigen una reforma y señalan que un elemento clave para reducir la reincidencia es el acceso a un empleo, y que condenas criminales previas no necesariamente indican que el desempeño del posible empleado será menos satisfactorio.

"SB 1384 limitará la habilidad del (departamento de salud) para negar una solicitud de asistente de enfermería...y por lo cual retira (su) capacidad para proteger adecuadamente a pacientes" indica una carta de oposición firmada por Monica Wagoner, representante del director del departamento de salud, de acuerdo a Levin.

Levin añade que algunos partidarios del SB 1384 señalan que profesiones de asistencia médica, tales como dentistas y trabajadores de salud mental, no niegan automáticamente licencias o certificaciones como resultado de una convicción.

"SB 1384 otorga una oportunidad a la gente de probar - a través de carácter y referencias de trabajo, certificados de entrenamiento y tratamiento, y otra evidencia relevante - que han superado los obstáculos mas importantes de sus vidas que los llevaron a sus condenas," Mitchell agregó.

-Traducción Tare Beltranchuc

## Proposed Bill May Give Elderly Prisoners a Chance at Early Parole

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

A newly proposed bill would give more elderly inmates serving long sentences and indeterminate (life) sentences an early chance at parole if it becomes law.

Senate Bill 224 (SB 224), the Elderly Parole Program, introduced in February by Senator Carol Liu, D-Glendale, and co-authored by Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, is one more piece of legislation in a string of laws written to help reduce the size of California's state prison population.

The proposed legislation says in part, "This bill would establish the Elderly Parole Program, for prisoners who are 50 years of age or older, who

have served 15 years of their sentence."

Legislation for the existing Elderly Parole Program also came in response to prison overcrowding. In a class action case, *Coleman v. Brown*, the federal court issued an order requiring the state to "implement an Elderly Parole Program so that prisoners who are 60 years of age or older and who have been incarcerated 25 years on their current sentence will be referred to the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) to determine suitability for parole."

On October 1, 2014, the BPH implemented the existing Elderly Parole Program.

Two years ago the CDCR reported that there were 27,580 inmates 50 years of age and older. At the same time the number

of inmates who were 55 years of age and older was 14,856.

In the 15-year period between 1995 and 2010 the population of prisoners 55 years of age and older increased four times, Human Rights Watch reported. It estimated that by the year 2030 one-third of the prison population will be seniors.

"The bill (SB 224) would require the Board of Parole Hearings to consider whether a prisoner will qualify for the program when determining the prisoner's next parole suitability hearing," the proposed legislation says.

Those interested in this bill may contact their state assembly member and state senator at <http://assemblymembers.and http://senate.ca.gov/senators>.

## Governor Aims to Change California Supreme Court

Continued from Page 1

named to the court, was recalled by voters in an election in 1986.

This time around Brown has made three more nominations to the court. His choices "were the product of a long search that included consultations with two members of the U.S. Supreme Court," *The New York Times* wrote.

"I was looking for people who you could say were 'learned in the law' - a phrase you might not hear too much anymore," said Brown. "I put the word out: Are there people who are scholars or of un-

usual ability?"

"The three nominees share certain characteristics: They are quite young, they have impeccable qualifications and they are by all accounts brilliant," said Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the law school at the University of California, Irvine.

Like Bird, none of the three people Brown nominated had ever served a day as a judge. Justices Goodwin Liu and Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar were law professors, and Justice Leandra R. Kruger was an associate attorney general. They are all under 45 and are all graduates of the Yale Law

School.

"There is always a tension between appointing people who have already been judges and appointing people who have not previously been judges, but I think that's an interesting balance for any court to have," said Margaret H. Marshall, a former chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Brown's selections have also brought diversified backgrounds to the court. Liu is the child of Taiwanese parents; Cuéllar was born in Mexico; and Kruger is the first African-American to serve on the court since 2005.

Kruger's confirmation has restored the court to a female majority.

"Legal scholars said that aside from Brown's effort to inject more intellectual heft to the court, they expected that these appointments would move the court to the left," *The New York Times* wrote.

For Brown, the new appointments were like "an opportunity for a bit of a do-over after the troubled appointment of Ms. Bird," opined *The New York Times*.

A 2007 study by the University of California, Davis, Law Review said that the California Supreme Court was the

most influential in the nation, having been cited the most by other courts in the preceding 65 years.

With the new appointments, "the court is well poised to really make a mark," said Gerald F. Uelman, a professor at the Santa Clara University School of Law. "And, I think that is what Gov. Brown is looking for: leaving a legacy that will restore the luster of the Supreme Court he knew when he clerked for the court."

In his four terms as governor, Brown has appointed 11 justices to the state Supreme Court.

# Senators Question Brown On \$1 Billion Prison Plan

*“When, if ever, will the state be able to reduce prison spending?”*

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

State senators are questioning Gov. Jerry Brown's budget plan to hike prison spending by \$1 billion despite a decrease of 40,000 prisoners.

*“Where is the  
Realignment  
dividend?”*

“When, if ever, will the state be able to reduce prison spending?” Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, asked at a Jan. 27 hearing of the Senate

Budget Committee, which he chairs.

“Where is the Realignment dividend?” added Vice Chair Jim Nielsen, R-Chico, an opponent of Brown's Realignment plan that shifted responsibility for some low-level crimes from state prisons to county jails.

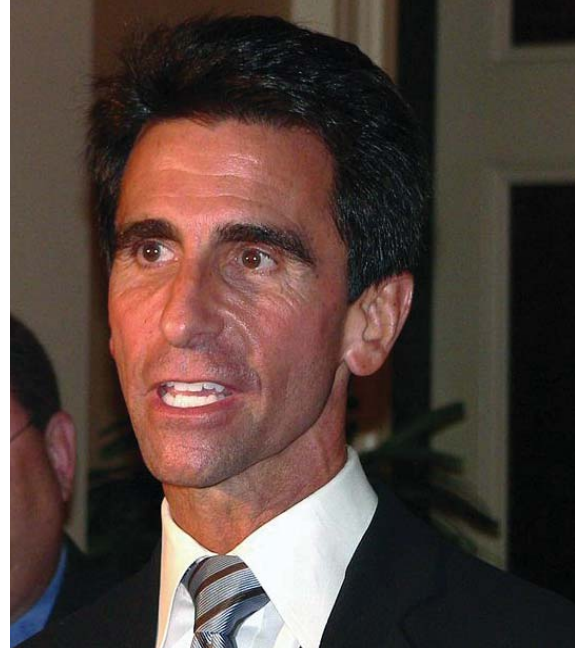
Leno asked representatives of the Department of Finance why the Brown administration is requesting double the staff at the new health care prison facility in Stockton that provides long-term medical care and mental health treatment to inmates, according to a report by Jim Lindburg of Californians United for a Responsible Budget, who attended the hearing.

Lindburg reported the ad-

ministration officials replied by saying that the planning of the new medical prison did not allow for the physical plant design of the large number of high acuity beds.

Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, has questioned the Brown administration revenue estimates, which have been a lot lower than state revenue in past years, Lindburg wrote.

Mitchell later said the administration has drawn criticism from others for failing to “restore many of the \$15 billion in cuts to safety net programs since the Great Recession.” This is not poverty reduction,” Mitchell declared. “This is poverty maintenance.”



California Sen. D-San Francisco  
Mark Leno leaving a conference

File Photo

## Victims' Rights Group Files Single-Drug Execution Suit California Is Home to the Largest Death Row Population in the Country

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

California must find a way to execute condemned prisoners without using a controversial three-drug lethal injection procedure, a Sacramento judge has ruled.

Corrections officials cannot wait any longer to find a new way to conduct executions if they are reinstated, said Sacramento Superior Court Judge Shellyanne Chang, as reported by The Associated Press.

A lawsuit filed by crime victims is asking that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation quickly adopt new procedures in which executions can

be carried out. The procedure being sought is single drug (barbiturate only) system.

Chang did find that the CDCR does have the responsibility of finding a new system but made it clear that it also has sole discretion as to how the procedure will be carried out.

The AP reported that Gov. Jerry Brown said in April 2012 that the state would switch to a single-drug lethal injection. At present, California has not received a single drug lethal injection cocktail, the report said.

In response to the single-drug procedure, department spokeswoman Deborah Hoffman said, the department is reviewing the ruling. The rul-

ing is not yet final. However, it will take effect if officials are unable to change Chang's decision.

*“This is an area  
that has been  
evolving in the  
law, whether  
victims have any  
rights at all”*

A victims' rights organization is responsible for filing the suit on behalf of two family members of murder victims, citing that they are

affected by the delays.

The argument is that eight other states are using a court-approved one-drug process for lethal injections and that California should align itself with those states.

The tentative ruling has been received as a victory for crime victims, according to Kent Scheidegger, legal director for the Sacramento-based Criminal Justice Legal Foundation.

“This is an area that has been evolving in the law, whether victims have any rights at all,” he said.

This ruling answers that question in the affirmative. Victims do have rights when it comes to influencing state policies, he added.

What was not mentioned is that even if the ruling is adopted, there are still many barriers that could stop executions. For some time now, the length of time in which a Death Row inmate spends locked up and awaiting lethal injection, amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, U.S. District Judge Cormac Carney ruled in July 2014.

California is home to the largest Death Row population in the country. While state officials continue to fight for reinstatement of the lethal injections, no definitive information has been disseminated on the matter.

The report stated that Attorney General Kamala Harris is appealing the ruling.

## Changing Your Life Should Start While You Are in Prison

*Continued from Page 1*

as a police officer in Oakland, but later spent 20 years inside San Quentin State Prison for second-degree murder.

He has returned to San Quentin several times, encouraging inmates to turn their lives around and to join outside rehabilitation programs, such as those he works with.

After being free for nearly 11 years, Butler spoke Feb. 13 to the Journalism Guild – a group of prisoners who write articles for the *San Quentin News*.

### HISTORY IN PRISON

As a source of inspiration, he discussed the history of his case and how life in San Quentin from 1984 to 2004 motivated him to change into a better man.

“The very first time I stepped foot inside my cell, I took one look around and told myself, ‘I don't belong here,’” said Butler.

From that point forward, Butler was determined to gain

his freedom by all positive means necessary.

“I surrounded myself with like-minded people, and associated with other men who shared my goals and commitments.”

He made a pact with another inmate, promising that they both would work hard to get out of prison.

### PROGRAMS

Butler took advantage of many of the programs San Quentin has to offer. “San Quentin is considered the Mecca for programs in the prison system,” he said.

He spent a lot of time in the prison law library, studying and doing research. He eventually started working inside the library.

He explained how he was denied parole numerous times. “Every time I was denied parole, I would challenge it in court,” said Butler.

Even when he didn't win relief at the board or in the courts, he said he still managed to learn something new.

“I believe in order for you to

be successful, you have to be resilient,” said Butler.

He told Journalism Guild writers that he kept both the district attorney and the police officer who arrested him abreast of his rehabilitative efforts and progress in prison.

### SUPPORT SYSTEM

He emphasized the importance of networking and maintaining a support system.

“When you get out of prison, you're going to need some type of support,” said Butler. “If you don't have a support system, then create one.”

The police officer who arrested Butler was promoted to captain. This same captain wrote a support letter to the parole board saying he felt Butler was no longer a threat to society.

On Aug. 17, 2004, Butler was granted parole and released by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Since his release, Butler, now 60, has achieved many accomplishments on his road to redemption. He has established himself as a commu-

nity activist involved in community programs such as Men of Valor, a transitional housing program for parolees.

### MEN OF VALOR

He proudly revealed that former lifer and *San Quentin News* staff member Watani Stiner is currently occupying one of the beds at Men of Valor.

Butler also works for a community program called the Cypress Mandela Training Center (CMTC), based in Oakland.

CMTC is a pre-apprenticeship construction training program that began in 1993 in response to the 1989 San Francisco Bay Area Loma Prieta earthquake.

The program provides training, certification and employment in a wide array of construction trades such as carpentry, ironworkers, cement masons, operating engineers and green-collar jobs.

CMTC is available to all members of the public, including ex-felons. Construction jobs are union jobs and

begin at \$18 an hour.

### RECIDIVISM

Butler talked about how lifers have the lowest recidivism rate of committing new crimes and returning back to prison.

“The success rate of the guys we work with is very good,” said Butler.

“People who get out and get into his program get treated with respect,” said Arnulfo T. Garcia, editor-in-chief of the *San Quentin News*. “I've got a lot of respect for the man. He keeps coming back.”

“What is character?” Butler asked. “Knowledge builds character... it's never a waste of time,” he continued. “A man with real character is the same way all the time, even when he thinks no one is watching ....and you never know who is watching.”

The CMTC website is [www.cypressmandela.org](http://www.cypressmandela.org).

—Contributing writers to this article: Wesley R. Eisiminger, Rudy Moralez, Marcus Henderson and Kevin D. Sawyer



# PUP's Art History Class Takes a Field Trip

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

A college class consisting of prisoners going on a field trip inside the prison is almost impossible to imagine, but Patten University at San Quentin's Art History class did just that.

Thanks to the generosity of the artists housed inside San Quentin, students were able to view artwork first hand in the prison's art studio.

Kara Urion, Program Director for the Prison University Program, arranged for the class to take the field trip. "I think to be able to utilize the visual analysis skills they learned in class on their peers' artwork is important," said Urion.

The Art History class, led by instructors Mathew Culler, Elizabeth Eager and Grace Harpster, hopes to teach students to "gain a familiarity with the major movements, artists and events in the history of western art since the Renaissance," according to their syllabus.

The art studio in San Quentin used to be named "Arts-in-Corrections," but the program was shelved by the state in 2010



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Instructor Grace Harpster explaining the angles of the artwork that is displayed



Photo by Sam Hearnes

James Norton putting close touch-ups on a painting



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Phoeun You asking the instructor about the contrast of a painting

after budget cuts. The art studio was kept open after losing state funding due to work of the nonprofit William James Association.

Recently, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has once again started to fund art programs within prisons by distributing funds to nonprofits such as the William James Association.

Inside the art studio at San Quentin prisoners paint, draw, block print, build dioramas and make music.

"The art was pretty amazing. There was one block print that jumped out at me. I was blown away," said prisoner Eddie Herena after viewing the artwork in the art studio.

One of the art projects that students analyzed in the art

studio is a mural that is being constructed and will eventually be mounted on one of the walls in a dining hall at San Quentin.

"We looked at the mural and discussed perspective while comparing different styles that the artists used to create it," said Herena, adding, "We also talked about what the artists were trying to say with

their work."

"I was happy to see that our instructor was able to view some of the high-quality art being produced at San Quentin," said student Carlos Flores.

"All of my teachers know what they're talking about. I enjoy listening to them teach because they bring their passion into the conversation,"

said Herena.

"Arts-in-Corrections was the perfect place for our art history class to discuss how being in the presence of an artwork alters our perception of its meaning," Harpster said. "Material, scale, display context, technique — this all matters in a work of art, whether produced in the 19th century or present-day San Quentin."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Prisoners working on personal artwork

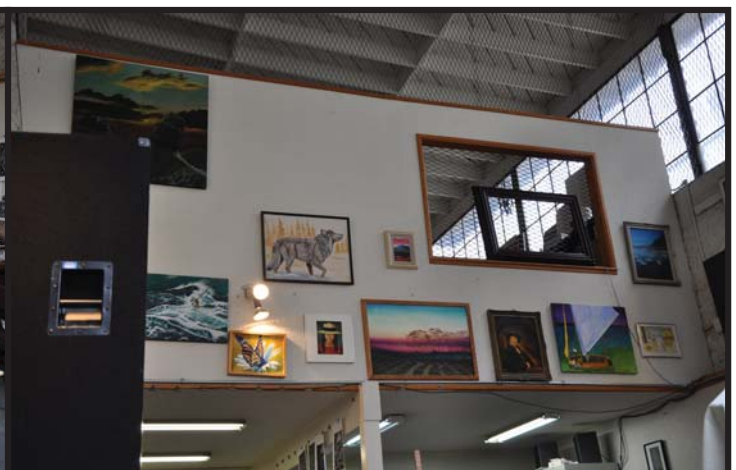


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Photo of paintings that are displayed in the Art-in-Corrections room



# Last Mile's Aspiring Entrepreneurs Pitch Start-Ups on Demo Day

Continued from Page 1

Vinh Nguyen, referring to the circumstances that led him to commit first-degree murder, Nguyen's proposal was an application that helps young people identify and process their emotions during stress-

ful times. The application, "Moodringer," monitors the wearer's vital signs to alert the wearer of elevated levels; it also sends an instant notification to the wearer's "support team," a group of people with close ties to the wearer. "This device will give

young people a tool that could prevent them from making the same mistake I made," Nguyen said. "You are only a ring away from mindfulness." According to California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, who attended the presentation, TLM is essen-

tial because it equips inmates with the necessary skills to keep up with a swiftly advancing global society. "Ten years ago, Twitter was still a sound. Facebook didn't exist. The cloud was in the sky. 4G was a parking space. LinkedIn was a prison. Those things didn't exist. Now they're ubiquitous in our lives," Newsom said. "Unless you have the skills that can adapt to that new reality — and programs like TLM provide those new, fresh skills of tomorrow — you're not going to fare well."

"A vast majority of these people are going to be back out on the streets, and we want them educated, and we want them empowered, and we want them to have the kind of confidence they're going to need to enter a workforce that's radically changing day in and day out," Newsom added. TLM is the brainchild of venture capitalists Beverly Parenti and Chris Redlitz and provides inmates with the opportunity to develop innovative business concepts. Parenti and Redlitz "invented something from nothing," said TLM board member John Hamm. "They got things that impeded the program out of the way. They never considered giving up. They are the most humble and committed people I've ever met."

Parenti said the purpose behind TLM originally was to reduce recidivism and reduce the cost of prison spending. They have since expanded the program to include a computer coding class, called Code 7370. "The results are exceeding expectations and show what is possible in a prison setting," she said. Code 7370 is

scheduled to have its first graduation on April 20. Redlitz said he advises TLM participants to build businesses based on their passions; then, "they swim in a shark tank and learn how to present their ideas in a professional manner," Redlitz said. "In the end, when the men return to the community, they're transformed into confident businessmen."

Indeed, confident and professional was how the men appeared. According to entrepreneur and musician MC Hammer, a longtime TLM adviser, all the presentations were well thought-out. "These men are committed," Hammer said. The men's business proposals covered a wide range of social needs. Participant Azraal Ford said he wanted to confront high school peer pressure by creating an online community called "Schooligans." Ford, a self-identified ex-bully, wants to give the teenage community a safe, online support system and forum to express themselves fully.

"Schooligans would allow teens to identify with others who are having the same struggles they're having," Ford said. Participating teenagers would be able to create their own profiles and connect with other teenagers via online messaging, Ford said.

Reginald Hola created "My Tribe," a social media platform that provides users with online tools to understand and preserve their cultures. Families create their own profile, complete with generations of family documentation. "A person without knowledge of his history is like a tree without roots," Hola said. "My Tribe is home to everyone. A tribe can say where your heart is. A tribe is waiting for you."

Sam Hearn was inspired to create "The Village," an online command center to help locate missing persons, because his own father was abducted when he was a child. The Village aims to upload critical information regarding missing persons and to update both law enforcement and select members of the community, called "Village Angels," in a more time-efficient manner.

"The first three hours are critical in finding missing children," Hearn said. Jason James presented his application "Getting Parents' Attention" (GPA), which monitors the grades of high school student athletes. Those who excel academically are rewarded with the Wiseman Trophy, not to be mistaken for the Heisman Trophy. The application provides students with interactive ways to learn while focusing on their athletic pursuits at the same time.

"Combat Chess" is an animated, blitz-speed chess game with characters created from favorite action figures. It's also a spectator sport for an online audience.

"VocaLock," a voice-activated firearm trigger lock that is password-protect-

ed, was created by participant Chung Kao. It comes complete with a GPS and is tamper-proof.

Participant A. Terrell Merritt brought to the table "Windows of Praise," a social media platform that allows church choirs to compete against one another in an American Idol-like event. The platform's slogan is "Look in, Listen, and Be Inspired." TLM graduates are testament to the effectiveness of the lessons learned through the program. Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal, Darnell Hill, James Houston and Heracio Harts, all past graduates of TLM, are currently out of prison, employed and applying the skillset learned in TLM to their daily work lives.

Leal is employed at RockSpace, a San Francisco-based tech incubator. Hill works as an advertising agent with ePantry. Houston is a youth coordinator in Richmond, serving as a mentor to at-risk teenage boys and girls.

"I started taking programs to show my son that people can change. I found my voice and used it to help all those around me," Houston said. "My passion was helping the youth avoid the problems that caused me to come to prison."

Harts is a salesperson for an Internet marketing firm called Doz. "In order for dreams to come true, all the preparation means nothing, unless you execute the action," Harts said regarding his training through TLM.

Several business executives who mentor TLM participants applauded the work that graduates accomplished and encouraged the

potential behind these ideas. "The potential for growth in this industry is incredible. All you need is hard work and persistence," said keynote speaker B. Bonin Bough, vice president of Global Media and Consumer Engagement of Mondelez. "The skillset that you're learn-

ing are sought after as talent to build businesses."

MC Hammer acknowledged the band "Contagious" and Emily Mesko who provided the music for the event. James Cavitt also performed his spoken word piece, "Where I Live," which described free-

dom not as a tangible place, but instead a mindset.

San Quentin News thanks Nancy Mullane, independent reporter and producer of *The Life of the Law*, [www.lifeofthelaw.org](http://www.lifeofthelaw.org), who recorded the quotes of Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom.



Azraal Ford

Photo by Harold Meeks



Keith Wroten

Photo by Harold Meeks



Sam Hearn

Photo by Harold Meeks



A. Terrell Merritt

Photo by Harold Meeks



Jason James

Photo by Harold Meeks



Chung Kao

Photo by Harold Meeks



Vinh Nguyen

Photo by Harold Meeks



Reginald Hola

Photo by Harold Meeks



# Arts & Entertainment



Photo by Steve McNamara

Tokyo resident Nina McNamara, age 2½, takes her copy of the San Quentin News to the Maruko Sanno Hie Shinto Shrine near her apartment to practice her English. Nina is the daughter of Yoko and Morgan McNamara and granddaughter of Kay McNamara and SQ News adviser Steve McNamara.



File Photo

Holly Clewenger standing in front of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pa., the City of Brotherly Love.



File Photo

A wonderful lady whose name will remain unknown sends in her photo all the way from Puerto Vallarta.

## Snippets

Chocolatier reportedly produced the World's largest egg. It was made with at least 50,000 chocolate bars and measured 27.3 ft. high, and 4,299 pounds. Twenty six Guilian master chocolate makers was credited for making the egg in eight days.

Hares differ from rabbits in size. Hares are noticeably larger than rabbits and they do not burrow.

Onoplos domesticus is a tiny pink spider that lives in European homes. It lays the least amount of spider eggs than any other spider, which is only two.

Cut some flowers and put them in a vase and add a spoon full of sugar. It is said that this will prolong the life of your flowers.

Orchids are considered the largest family of flowering plants with over 100,000 different purebreds and hybrids. 800 different new species of plants are created each year.

Lots of Gideons Bibles are distributed throughout the U.S. Other than hotel rooms, the Bible is passed out to members of the military, hospitals, nursing homes and prisons.

Anglo-Saxon's language for the name God means good.

The largest Easter egg hunt was recorded in 2007 by the Guinness Book of World Record was held in Cypress Gardens. It's a theme park close to Winter Haven, Fl., and 510,000 eggs were hidden all around the park. All eggs were collected in less than one hour.

Easter comes in a close second place to Halloween for the most candy-eating occasion of the year. According to the National Confectioner's Association, Americans eat 7 billion pounds of candy in 2001.

## Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

## Sudoku Corner

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

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

# Freedom Is a Relationship, Not a Thing

By Watani Stiner  
SQ News Columnist

By the time this article goes to print in April, I will have been out of prison for 90 days. If you'll notice, I did not say that I have been "free" for 90 days. Freedom is perhaps one of the most difficult subjects one could write about. It is a subtle concept, a concept that requires context to ground it or it becomes entirely ambiguous and elusive. Freedom is not an object or thing. Freedom is essentially a relationship. There are relationships that reflect the demeaning and oppressive environments they arise from (like prisons, human exploitation, abusive marriages, and wars); and others that are mutually beneficial and allow one to exercise his or her creative potential, make meaningful contributions and to flourish in the context of family, community, society and true friendships.

Twenty-one years after my voluntary surrender I have suddenly been deemed suitable for parole, declared "no longer a danger to society." My insistence of innocence hasn't changed one iota during the

## An 'OG's' Perspective



Watani Stiner in front of Sproul Hall at U.C. Berkley

two decades since my voluntary return. I consistently maintained that the 1969 shootout on the UCLA campus in which two human beings tragically lost their lives (and I was convicted) was not the result of any "conspiracy!" Now, after two

decades of captivity, the parole board has finally set me "free." Of course I'm thrilled to be out of prison and fortunate enough to be surrounded by so many of my family and friends, but like my son has stated in a recent article about that rearview mir-

ror, "I can still see smoke rising from the wreckage behind me." The pleasures I have on this side of the wall are burdened with the years and years of loss and aggressive obstruction of relationships exacted by the prison system.

The freedom I am now experiencing cannot be measured by how far removed I am from the walls of San Quentin State Prison nor by the inhumane treatment so pervasive in prison life. Freedom *from* those kinds of relationships, though important enough, is far less important to me than the freedom to *reclaim* my once captured life and be with my family and community. Each day I realize my freedom through my renewed relationship with my children: the freedom to embrace them, to hear their stories and to be fully present in their lives. That's the type of freedom I choose to write about for this column. I celebrate that freedom, at the same time that I mourn the huge pieces of my life, which I

can never get back.

No matter how much freedom you have or think you have, a lost relationship with your children can never be retrieved even when you are released from prison. No matter how hard I try, I can never recover the missed birthdays, prompts, late night chats, inside jokes, graduations and marriages. Because of my incarceration I lost the ability to be the father I could have been. Paradoxically, prison also was never able to cage the unbreakable connection that I have with my children and family. In some sense, I remained free throughout my incarceration through our mutual love – even when I spent years without being able to even communicate with them.

The origin of the word "free" comes from a word meaning "to love." It is the same word that "friend" comes from. I want to focus on this meaning of freedom, and not the shallow definition it usually has in American culture: having lots of options and doing whatever you want. Freedom is relationship, and it is something close to the heart of every human being.

## PIA Prison Jobs Can Lead to Later Careers

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

For inmates, California Prison Industry Authority jobs are one way to sustain a livelihood while behind bars and after release.

CALPIA employs a select group of inmates. Out of California's 116,000 inmates in 35 prisons, just under 7,000 are employed with CALPIA, according to a report by Lisa Morehouse/NPR for KPBS.

California State Prison-

Corcoran in California's Central Valley is a high-security prison that supplies milk for most California state prisons. Since the dairy operation is located outside the prison's secure perimeter, only low-risk inmates are utilized.

"Our payoff as an organization is to employ inmates and teach them a job skill, so that when they are released, they can get out there and sustain a living," said Rob Roehlk, who oversees the dairy and milk pro-

cessing at Corcoran.

The dairy sits on 30 acres of land. The inmates earn 35 to 95 cents an hour working five days a week at various jobs.

Most inmates coming from urban areas lack experience at working with animals or agriculture.

"They come in and they haven't really seen a cow before, haven't milked a cow before." Some inmates come from a construction background; some have experience operating

heavy equipment. "We just build on it," Roehlk told Morehouse.

The milk processing facility allows inmates to earn a number of licenses used in processing milk. These inmates work in the labs testing milk for bacteria.

"I've never been involved in things like this, but I would like to pursue it back in society," said Corcoran inmate Edward Wilson.

There is no firm data on how many former inmates ultimately get employed in the fields in

which they worked while incarcerated.

The PIA agency does suggest that CALPIA inmate employees return to prison about 30 percent less frequently than the general prison population.

The NPR report noted, however, that it's hard to compare the two estimates since the PIA workers are carefully selected.

Still, no matter what the data says, inmate Wilson maintains a positive outlook about finding a job in his field.

## San Quentin Kairos Legend Brian Arnold Passes

Brian Arnold  
died Sat., Feb 21.

Arnold was a part of Kairos, a Christian ministry brought into San Quentin and other prisons all over the world by volunteers and residents serving to share their love of Christ.

"I've known Brian since group 42," inmate Clinton Martin said. "Brian taught me how to be a man and Christian and be both together."

Martin added that Arnold loved to play harmless practical jokes on his friends.

"Brian would tell people to do things, knowing they'd be uncomfortable doing them, and he'd sit back and laugh. He was a jokester. It's a bittersweet day. I'm sad he's no longer with us, but there's no doubt, he's in heaven with the Father right now."

"The three best words to describe Brian," Martin said, "are faith, beauty and love."

Kairos, a mix of interdenominational Christians, is organized with well-trained teams of men and women from Christian communities surrounding San Quentin. They present a three-day weekend, described as a

short course in Christianity. Chaplains within San Quentin select up to 42 inmates to attend.

Inmate Kimani Randall said that he first met Arnold in Kai-

ros group 39.

"He was a wonderful individual," Randall said. "He was down to earth, very loving authentic. That's what gravitated

me to him the most," adding, "He was funny. He kept me laughing. I don't do too much laughing, but he kept me laughing and brought joy to my day.

Whenever I went to a reunion I looked forward to seeing him."

Kairos members, outside and inside San Quentin, continue to gather for monthly reunions. In addition to inside weekends, Kairos provides "Kairos Outside" weekends for wives, girlfriends, daughters and sisters of incarcerated men and "Torch" weekends for youth offenders.

Randall said the best way to describe Arnold is that he was "caring, non-judgmental and funny."

"Brian was very intelligent and gifted," Kairos volunteer Ronald Lew said. "He would give himself to anyone who was ready. He showed me how a person should act."

"Brian taught me many lessons in loving and letting go," Lew said. "He also corrected me in my thinking and understanding in how I viewed things in my little world."

He is survived by his wife, Alison Arnold; son Joe Hughes; his brother, Jerere Arnold and his wife, Denise; nephews Daniel Arnold and Ronnie Arnold; nieces Tangina Sarnold, Jessica Borberg, Sena, Cara and Jordan Hughes; and his father-in-law Lawrence Hughes.



Family Photo

Brian Arnold taking time out to just relax on a boat in the middle of a lake

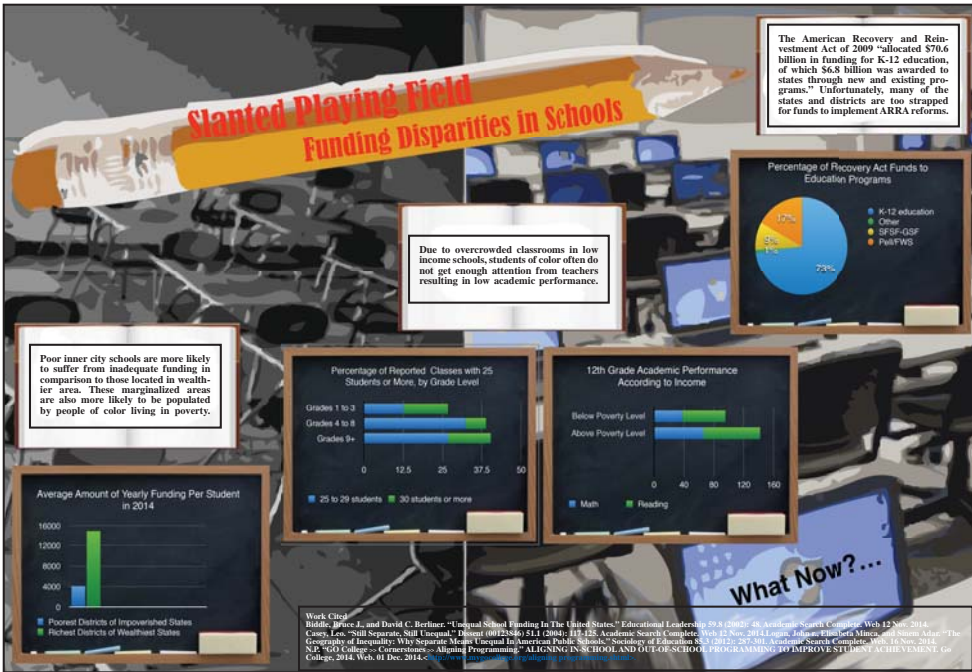


# Concerns of Youth Are the Same, In and Out of Prison

By Miguel Quezada  
Staff Writer

High school and college students discovered they have many of the same concerns as

## Kid CAT Speaks



Editor's Note: Some of these quotes were taken from minors, therefore only first names appear:

Kristin: "Witnessing their ideas come to life and seeing their inspiration to change the lives of other youth really inspired me to be an advocate for underprivileged youth in my own community."

Valerie: "Working with the Kid CAT guys was an eye-opening experience. Their stories concretized the school-to-prison pipeline for me. Many of the Kid CAT members were involved in gangs at a young age and ended up committing crimes and

as government policies, family violence, and racial biases, that factor into the incarceration of these individuals."

Leeanne: "One memory from this class that will stick with me for a long time was when one of the high-school students,



Maria, explained to me her perception of the way society views her. As a minority student in a low-income school, she believed that society's view of her is someone who is incapable and should not be taken seriously. Maria's goal in life is to prove them wrong, and, now, my goal is to be part of the solution that helps her."

Cecilia: "Going into these collaborations with the guys inside and with the high school students did not seem like a big deal to me at first. I just thought 'Oh, these men and students are just going to bring up a couple points and we will just discuss it in class.' I was surprised at how strongly I felt about the points that were brought up. Not only did I feel like I wanted to advocate for the men inside, but I wanted to advocate for the children who were not receiving a proper education."

young inmates at San Quentin Prison on educational equality.

Top concerns included the disparity between needs and resources to meet those needs, the high rate of incarceration of juveniles in adult prisons, and racial and cultural divisions in communities.

"Education provides the foundation for all people to have the opportunity to participate, question, challenge and experience both the rights and responsibilities inherent in a democratic society," said Julia van der Ryn, who helped teach the class. "Lack of access to a positive educational experience and inequity is the root cause of many social issues and perpetuates cycles."

The concerns were expressed in a class taught separately at San Rafael High School, Dominican University and with San Quentin inmates who are members of Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together).

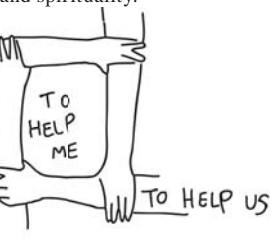
The fall 2014 class was coordinated by Dominican professors van der Ryn and Lynn Sondag.

The high school and the university students participated in the art studio portion of the class. Some of the younger students -- primarily the low-income Latino immigrants -- provided important perspectives and had experience in the issue.

Through reading, dialogue and reflection, college and

high school students generated visual and written responses to vital questions, such as: What is the relationship between education and democracy? What is the relationship between a democratic education and the arts?

The class was conducted through a series of workshops. The Kid CAT members and the students each held their own meetings where they separately discussed these important questions. Kid CAT and the students reflected on the ways in which their educational experience was impacted by the larger dimensions of history, culture, economics, politics and spirituality.



Discussing questions they raised, the students discovered many shared themes. They were very surprised to find out that many of the most resonating questions, ones that closely mirrored their own concerns, were actually generated by juveniles serving terms of life in prison.

Here is a sampling of questions they raised:

What can local communities and schools do to help youth (first generation immigrants) be accepted with opportunity to retain their identity?

What can local communi-

ties and their leaders do to help build bridges between cultures?

How can two different schools have two different resources?

How does poverty shape one's way of thinking?

When the feeling of being abandoned comes up, what does one need in that moment?

How does a bi-racial person choose what race defines them?

If we are all human beings, why do we still separate ourselves?

Why are we blind to inequality when we are not the ones facing it?

Why is society so afraid of difference?

Can dialogue about their cultural backgrounds empower students?

Why is knowledge dangerous?

Through the class, college and high school students broadened their understanding of issues related to zero tolerance, school discipline, challenges to documented and undocumented students and English learners, lack of restorative interventions and unequal school funding.

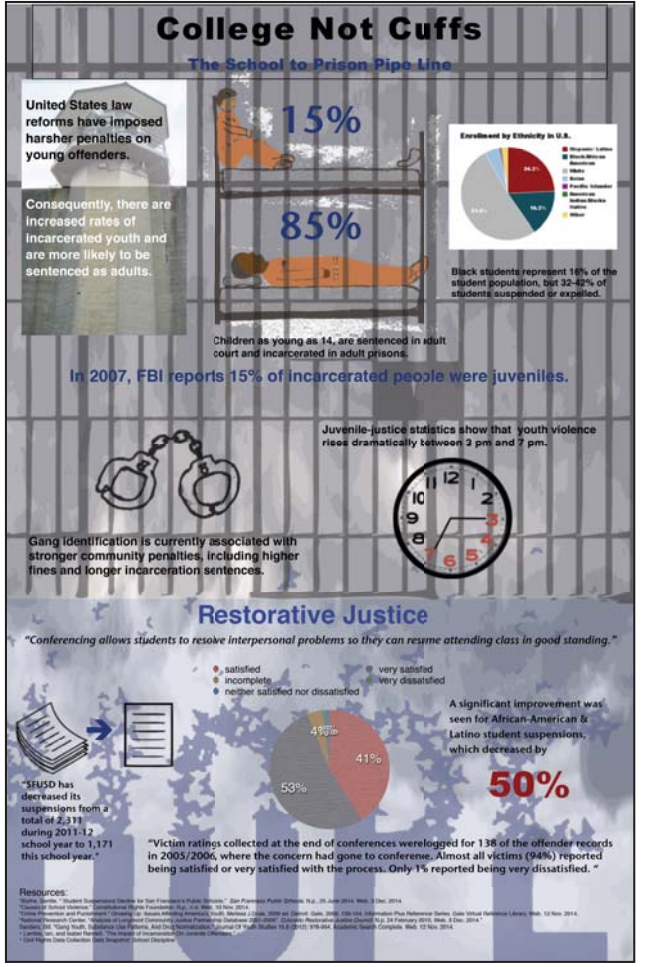
While the students are not art majors, they applied themselves passionately to synthesizing important information about these issues into five info graphs and eight different T-shirt designs.

The class was greatly enriched through the co-creation of art projects that came from collaborating with Kid CAT members out of San Quentin Prison, who provided an invaluable perspective on education.

Here is a sampling of the students' comments:

they had to pay for it. If they would have been provided equal opportunity in education, and many of them confirmed this in the interviews we watched in class, their lives would have all been very different."

Francis: "Prior to beginning the semester, I assumed that the inmates who were primarily of color committed crimes because of personal reasons. However, I have learned that there are many elements, such



**Kid CAT Creating Awareness Together is a group of men who committed their crimes as teenagers and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group's mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices.**



# Jennifer Richter's 'Threshold' of Poetry

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

When I read fiction, there is a pleasure in traveling through an author's character development, a new plot twist, and that authentic boom of good storytelling. However, when I read poetry, it's an investment in learning about my emotions. Poetry puts me at the edge of life, moves me in ways no other pedantic pursuit could.

Through poetry, I always discover words and phrases that warm my heart — words that I want to repeat, mostly to those I cherish. It is poetry that allows me to embrace tenderness in this place, where it is sometimes so hard to find.

When I got my hands on *Threshold*, a collection of poems by Jennifer Richter (2010), I went through it with the same questions I always ask of anthologies: What is the theme and why?

Richter's struggle with life and death, while being a mother

## BOOK REVIEW



and wife, made *recovery* a re-occurring theme in the anthology. That it took six sections to complete *Threshold* may not be incidental, as the seventh day is needed for *recovery*.

"To me, the *Recovery* poems are the real backbone of the book," Richter said in an interview. "The manuscript didn't feel grounded enough, whole enough, till I realized that each section needed to end with a *Recovery* poem."

*Recovery* to Richter means more than simply getting back to a natural state.

Through Richter's poetry,

readers are able to grasp her perspective of what it means to endure. She is serious about life and the challenges that rise up against it.

Readers learn they must invest themselves in order to understand the rehabilitative value of projecting the emotional roller-coaster of fighting for one's life. It is a fight that is deeply personal for Richter and that has made *Recovery* a poetic reality in her own life — seen in her struggle to overcome cancer and recover from chemotherapy.

*Recovery 3* made me appreciate Richter's bravery and strength.

It forced me to consider *Threshold* in unexpected, ways: *Now you can't break down... People are waiting for you. Lingering on Recovery 3's* purposely placed line breaks draws readers into Richter's sensations and intense stoicism.

Nevertheless, even in Rich-

ter's stiff *recovery*, she recognizes *at the last minute what you can't part with and rushing to it, out there*. Her lyric poetry defines its own beauty by valuing family above all, which makes

**Threshold:**  
*where mothers prop themselves, welcoming, waving, mostly wanting. You are a frame your child passes through, the safest place to stand when the shaking starts. You brace yourself. He draws you like this, arms straight out, too stick-thin but the hands are perfect, splayed like suns, long fingers, the hands he draws for you are huge. Threshold: separate the seeds, gather them back. In his pictures you all come close to holding hands, though the fingers of your family never touch; you're in the middle of all this reaching.*

hearing, *you'll be fine*, seem comforting in spite of the pain.

The insight contained in *The Last Word* shows Richter's ability to understand that faith is the guiding force behind a full recovery.

*Spring, and It Starts to Snow:* is a moment in time when you think that you're a life giver, but reality snaps you back to the here and now, and *It's hard sometimes, to live.*

*What Is My Body Without You:* This poem gives readers the sense of what childbearing is like, emotionally. Richter guides us through her entire pregnancy—leading up to that moment in time when she watches her child leave her body to be in this world — an awesome moment.

I come away from *Threshold* with a sense of intimately knowing Richter's mindset as a mother and wife conflicting with all the struggles that a life-threatening illness brings — which made me understand, in a deeper sense, what it truly means to *recover*.

# What Was Your Favorite Easter Moment Like?

## Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

April is the first of four months with only 30 days.

April Fools' Day is the first day of the month. Mid-month on April 15, income tax returns are due. Officially, April 22 is Administrative Assistants Day — little noted except by administrators and their employees.

For the Christian community, April holds significant celebrations. On Thursday, April 2, it is Holy Thursday, on Friday, April 3, it is Good Friday, on Saturday, April 4, it is Holy Saturday, and on Sunday, April 5, it is Easter Sunday. Moreover, on Sunday, April 12, Christians observe Divine Mercy Sunday.

For the Jewish community,

Passover begins at sundown on Friday, April 3.

According to the World Almanac, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Humor Month and Stress Awareness Month.

The two astrological signs in April are Aries, the sign of the Ram (March 21 to April 19) and Taurus, the sign of the Bull (April 20 to May 20). According to the Jewelry Industry Council, the birthstone for April is the diamond.

Easter is a celebration that many of the men in blue celebrated with their families, so it brings back good memories. Asked on the Line posed two questions to mainliners: "What was your favorite Easter activity? What was your Easter din-

ner like?"

Jesus Flores said that he loved the family reunions during Easter. "When I was a kid, Easter was a big celebration, like Christmas, and we always got dressed up and went to church on Easter morning. Then, we came home to have lunch and visit with relatives and then had a big dinner. My favorite thing to eat was all the Easter candy!" said Flores.

Juan Arballo said, "We used to go to a procession in a small town about 3km from where we lived. I liked it because they made it look real, like the Passion of the Christ. We used to eat Mexican staples like enchiladas, carnitas, churritos (boiled pig skin) and chicharrones with salsa and lemon."

Eddie Herena said, "When I reflect on my Easter experiences as a kid, religion was not a part of it, but I really liked

going to the park with my family. We used to eat barbecue. I loved the barbecue."

Tim Thompson recalled, "When I was younger, I used to go to Sunday School and then we'd have Easter egg hunts. I would like eating the Easter eggs."

Phil Phillips said that during Easter he loved to sleep in because it was one of the few times he didn't have to get up early. "We'd have boiled eggs for Easter egg hunts, but I didn't like them. I liked chocolate eggs."

David Le explained, "My family is not Christian; we are Buddhists. But I liked the Easter bunny and Easter eggs. Who doesn't like Easter candy? Who doesn't like chocolate-covered eggs? Go to Walgreens!"

Eddie Hollingsworth said, "I used to like to go over to family gatherings and eat, drink

and listen to old family stories. My favorite food to eat during Easter was homemade macaroni and cheese and fried perch fish."

Lenny Rideout remembered, "My favorite thing to do was to get together with my family. We'd get in our Sunday best and go to church with the family. I loved to eat ham, turkey, potato salad and everything that my mother and grandmother used to cook. It was a family tradition to get together, eat and go to church."

Quinton Walker said, "My favorite thing to do during Easter was the Easter egg hunts! My favorite thing to eat during Easter was chocolate. The chocolate-flavored Easter eggs."

Raymond Bodine said, "For Easter, I liked attending Holy Saturday services at church. I liked to eat See's Candy's chocolate Easter eggs."

# An Inside Review of Dawn of the Planet of the Apes

By SQ Reviews

Director Matt Reeves' *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* continues the franchise tradition of exploring prejudice and power. Reeves' contribution to the *Apes* mythos is a sense of inevitable catastrophe that pushes *Dawn* across a spectrum of genres: from allegory to action movie to tragedy.

Humanity's struggle to find its place in a new world where apes talk and hunt with spears drives events, but the movie centers on Caesar (Andy Serkis), a chimpanzee who embodies all that is noble and good in ape culture. He contends with prejudices and grudges in an attempt to preserve a utopia and avoid war with humanity.

SQ Reviewers gather in the lot behind San Quentin's education department to discuss the tragic elements in *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*.

As men in prison, each of us has an element of tragedy in our stories: anger that blinded

## MOVIE REVIEW

us, fears that drove us, and circumstances that swallowed us. We know firsthand how tragedy often stems from some weakness or moral failing in character that make an otherwise avoidable catastrophe inevitable. Emile DeWeaver poses the question: why was war inevitable and why was the utopia created by the apes doomed?

"I think intelligence ruined everything for the apes," says Juan Meza. "Before intelligence, there were no evil apes. It reminds me of Adam and Eve in the garden. When they got knowledge, that's when the bad came."

"I see your point," said DeWeaver. "But it breaks down for me because in the movie the apes built a utopia, and they needed intelligence to do that."

Rahsaan Thomas locates the tragic elements in a vengeful ape named Koba and a bigoted



humans like Carver. "I think the tragedy came from the inability to forgive," he says. "Koba couldn't understand why Caesar worked with humans, but Caesar knew the humans weren't going to give up on that dam."

In *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, the central conflict revolves around a hydraulic dam in ape territory that humans will stop at nothing to restore.

"Caesar used intelligence to avoid war, so intelligence isn't evil per se," Thomas continues. "It all fell apart because Koba couldn't forgive humans, and the humans like Carver blamed apes for the flu epidemic that killed off most of the humans."

Meza holds up one finger, seeking to clarify his point. "What I'm trying to say about intelligence is that it brings ambition with it. For me, Koba wanted to be the leader. Caesar was trying to stop war, but Koba wanted to be in charge so he could go to war."

"Caesar was just stalling war out," Thomas says. "Eventually it was going to happen anyway. Humans were going to grow and need more space. And the history of America is that when they need more space, they take it."

"OK," DeWeaver says. "Humanity definitely has a history of taking the space we think we

need. But what's the quality that describes this taking-mentality, since we're trying to pinpoint tragic elements?"

Thomas covers his mouth while he thinks. "In the movie, it was the *us/them* mentality — us humans against those apes."

DeWeaver closes the meeting with a last thought. "I think the tragic element was fear. When I look at why some apes hated humans or why humans mistrusted talking apes, I see anger and mistrust as defenses against something feared in the future. Koba said he didn't want humans to have power because they would enslave apes with it. People who are loath to forgive a slight often fear they'll be slighted again, but what I took from the movie is that letting fear rule us leads right back to the catastrophe we're trying to avoid."

We rated *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* 3.5 dinner cookies out of 5.

Contributors: Emile DeWeaver, Rahsaan Thomas, Juan Meza, John Chiu



# The Effects of Family and Contact Visits

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Rehabilitation is necessary for public safety, yet some states' prison systems are leaning more and more toward hampering the best rehabilitation tool: family and contact visiting, two studies say.

"Revising prison visitation policies to make them more 'visitor friendly' could yield public safety benefits by helping offenders establish a continuum of social support from prison to the community," suggests one study.

The Minnesota study by Grant Duwe and Valerie Clark is called *Blessed Be the Social Tie That Binds: The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism*, published in the *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 2013. Another report was by Kristina Hall, titled *Visiting a Prisoner Can Help Reduce Crimes after Release*.

California Gov. Jerry Brown has ordered the state's prisons to conduct more thorough searches of people who enter prisons.

Those who don't clear a metal detector may be subject to additional screening, which could include "a hand-held wand inspection in conjunction with a clothed body search of the visitor's body; a clothed-body search alone; or an unclothed (skin) body search." (Notice of Change of Regulations #12-07 to Section(s): 3173.2 and 3174 10/5/2012)

Family (conjugal) visits have been cut from Mississippi and New Mexico in 2014, leaving California, New York and Washington the only remaining states that allow them. *Prison Legal News* of May 2014 reported *Research Finds That Conjugal Visits Correlate with Fewer Sexual Assaults*.

## Yard Talk

However, in California, family visits are not permitted for:

- inmates with death sentences
- inmates sentenced to life without parole
- inmates sentenced to life without a parole date established by the Board of Parole Hearings
- inmates convicted of a violent offense involving a minor or a family member
- sex offenders
- inmates in reception centers
- inmates in administrative segregation units
- inmates guilty of narcotics infractions while incarcerated

tually taken out of prison while in prison, put in a two-bedroom home with TV, bath, kitchen. You are able to cater to your wife's needs, child's needs. Inside family visits, there are no lockdowns, you are home in a sense," said Antwan Williams, an inmate.

Williams has family visits with his wife and daughter. He is serving 15 years for kidnap/robbery. (He moved somebody a few feet during a holdup.)

Conjugal visits help "improve the functioning of a marriage by maintaining an inmate's role as husband or wife, improve the

conducted from 2004 to 2006 in the five states that allowed conjugal visits then.

"If I could have family visits, I would be able to be more of a father to my son and husband to my wife," commented Lemar Harrison. "It would be an incentive to be an upstanding prisoner. It would make my ties with my wife and son that much stronger. It would help us do this time."

Harrison is a married lifer with a son. He has been convicted of murder/robbery and sentenced to 25 years to life. He receives regular visits weekly.

Several lifer inmates who aren't married or eligible for family visits see them as a benefit well beyond their potential

a productive part of their family. They say you, you, you, but they don't look at how they create bitter feelings toward the department and system because you have taken my family visits away."

Lewis is serving 109 years for shooting a man in the leg as a third strike. He has three kids but isn't eligible for family visit as a lifer.

"I would love to be able to sit down and see my 88-year-old grandma," added Eric Curtis, a three-striker.

Recent studies also show the huge difference family visits can have on child development.

"Significant health problems and behavioral issues were associated with the children of incarcerated parents, and that parental incarceration may be more harmful to children's health than divorce or death of a parent," says a study presented at the 109<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, according to Hoaip Tran Bui's article in *USA Today* on Aug. 25, 2014.

"It makes a huge difference on child's development," agrees Williams. "My presence isn't just on the phone. You can't understand sleep apnea or nightmares through Global Tel Link. ...to have that taken away says the needs of the child do not matter ... it would stunt her growth."

Duwe and Clark wrote, "Visits from family and friends offer a means for establishing, maintaining, or enhancing social support networks. Strengthening social bonds for incarcerated offenders may be important, not only because it can help prevent them from assuming a criminal identity, but also because many released prisoners rely on family and friends for employment opportunities, financial assistance, and housing."



Photo courtesy of San Quentin Archives

San Quentin's family visiting home in 1972

"You lock a man in a cage to punish him, then further punish him by hampering visits," said John "YaYah" Johnson. "It makes him socially dysfunctional."

The difference between family (conjugal) visiting and regular visiting are huge.

"On a family visit, you are ac-

inmate's behavior while incarcerated, counter the effects of prisonization, and improve post-release success by enhancing the inmate's ability to maintain ties with his or her family," found researchers at Florida International University (FIU) according to an article published in the *Prison Legal News*. That study was

for conjugal contact.

"Family visits aren't all about sex," said Demond Lewis. "Family visits would give us a chance to bond and be a part of the family. It would give you a couple of days to talk to your little brother. He's going to see he can leave, and we can't. A lot of dudes just want to be

# The Infamous History of San Quentin State Prison

By **A. Kevin Valvardi**  
Journalism Guild Writer

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

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

Jan. 28, 1972—Prisoner Clyde Hall and three other inmates wound up in isolation 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 offered to San Quentin prisoners as a means to improve mental health.

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

Feb. 4, 1972—The new West Block canteen project known as Canteen West proves successful.

## Back in the Days



Photo courtesy of San Quentin Archives

An outdated picture of prisoners stepping inside of the gym on the Lower Yard

Feb. 4, 1972—New SATE 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 Row

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 a free fall from

fifth tier 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.

March 9, 1972—One-hundred and sixty-two outside guests attend the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration of San Quentin's Alcoholics Anonymous chapter.

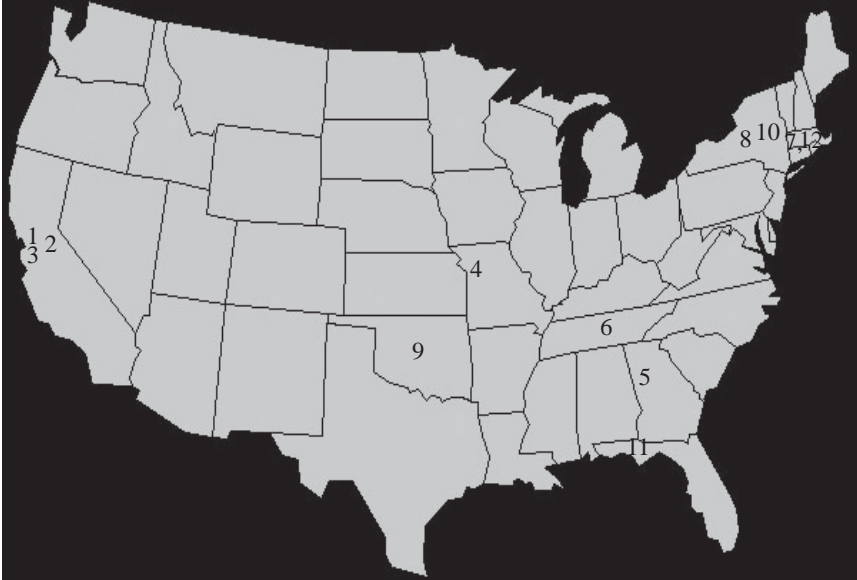
March 9, 1972—Former state and federal prisoner Dr. Thomas H. Cox becomes assistant professor of law and justice studies at Glassboro State College and pioneers a new college program at Leesburg State Prison in New Jersey.

March 9, 1972—Arab terrorist organization The Black September Group demands release of Sirhan Sirhan in exchange for diplomatic hostages in Sudan.

March 9, 1972—Seventy county prisoners are shipped to San Quentin for temporary housing following a disturbance and fire at local county jail.



# News Briefs



**1. Sacramento** — Scott Kernan, 54, of West Sacramento, has been appointed undersecretary for operations at the CDCR. Previously Kernan served as undersecretary for operations from 2008 to 2011, chief deputy secretary of adult operations from 2007 to 2008, and deputy director of adult institutions from 2006 to 2007. He also was warden at CSP-Sacramento, from 2004 to 2006, and warden at Mule Creek State Prison from 2003 to 2004, where he was a chief deputy warden from 2001 to 2003 and a correctional administrator from 2000 to 2001. Russell Nichols, 47, of Cameron Park, is the new director of the division of Enterprise Information Services at the CDCR, where he has served as acting director since 2015 and was project director of the strategic offender management system (SOMS) from 2012 to 2014.

**2. Rancho Cordova** — California Medical Facility staff took a chilly plunge into Lake Natoma in Rancho Cordova to raise funds for Special Olympics. Using the Sacramento State Aquatic Center at Lake Natoma, the team raised \$1,000 prior to the Feb. 8 event, and during the event they raised another \$350 for a total of \$1,350. They dubbed the event the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics.

**3. Oakland, CA** — A federal judge has allowed inmates in California Correctional Institution, Tehachapi, to be included into a court case filed by inmates at Pelican Bay State Prison, reports The Associated Press. All of the inmates are held in security housing units (SHU). The lawsuit claims living conditions in SHUs violate the constitutional ban against cruel and unusual punishment

because of the cells' extreme isolation. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation claims SHUs are necessary to remove violent gang members from the prison system's general population.

**4. St. Joseph, Mo.** — The state's population of prisoners older than 50 has steadily increased over the last decade. The Associated Press reports. According to state prison officials, the population of over-50 inmates has grown from 10.1 percent in 2004 to 17.5 percent in 2013. Inmates have a high risk of health issues due to their lifestyle choices, regardless of ages, George Lombardi, director of the department, said in the report.

**5. Atlanta, Ga.** — For the second time in four years, the

state has put a moratorium on executions after questioning the "origin and effectiveness of increasingly hard-to-get lethal injection drugs." The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports. The Georgia Department of Corrections postponed the executions of Kelly Gissendaner and Brian Keith Terrell.

**6. Nashville, Tenn.** — A bill has been filed in the state legislature that would permit the Corrections Corporation of America to be sued only where the private prison operates, The Associated Press reports. The bill follows the state Supreme Court decision saying that a state law requiring inmates to sue in the county where the prison is located does not apply to private prisons.

**7. Connecticut** — The

state's Supreme Court overturned a 100-year prison sentence that was imposed on Ackeem Rile, who was 17 when he killed a 16-year-old honor student in a 2006 drive-by shooting, the Connecticut Law Tribune reports. The state court cited a U.S. Supreme Court case (2012) ruling that mandatory sentences of life without the possibility of parole are unconstitutional for juvenile offenders.

**8. Mineola, N.Y.** — T.J. Parsell is producing videos focused on how prisoners could protect themselves from being raped while incarcerated, The Associated Press reports. In the report, Parsell said that he wanted to present the issue from the prisoners' perspective, with prisoners talking about how to

prevent such attacks.

**9. Oklahoma** — A bill passed the state's House of Representatives by a margin of 85-10 that would allow the execution of death row inmates by using nitrogen gas, The Associated Press reports. The bill follows a botched lethal injection in the spring that led the U.S. Supreme Court to consider the constitutionality of the state's three-drug method.

**10. Albany, NY.** — New York University began sponsoring college-level English classes at the state's Wallkill Correctional Facility in the Hudson Valley. Thirty-six inmates are taking the weekly classes that can lead to an associate's degree. The Ford Foundation is funding the program with a \$500,000 grant. Gov. Andrew Cuomo last year proposed funding college programs at 10 prisons, saying it would cut recidivism and crime, The Associated Press reports. But, he dropped the idea because of opposition from legislators.

**11. Tallahassee, FL** — The two videos made by a previously high-ranking prison official depicting deplorable conditions in the state's prison system were delivered to state legislators in spite of the governor's order not to show them. The videos highlighted chronic underfunding and understaffing at the state's prisons, the Herald/Times Tallahassee reported.

**12. Hartford, CT.** — As the total number of inmates keeps falling, Gov. Daniel P. Malloy wants to shut down one of its prisons. The Republican-American reports the inmate population is at a 10-year low of 16,167 this year and is expected to decrease to 15,686 next by Jan. 1, the lowest since September 1997.

## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductable. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. Do not use this address for general correspondence. Instead, write to the San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964. To contribute with a credit card, go to our website, www.sanquentinnews.com, click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed.

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\*Have made more than one donation



# Tennis Season Restarts on Lower Yard

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

## SPORTS

The Inside Tennis Team opened its promising 2015 season with outside sponsor Leslie Lava, Kent and Patti Anderson and some new competition. ITT won three out of the five matches.

"We have an outstanding season coming up with top players in the community coming in," said Lava. "They will have USTA 4.0 ratings and better. The University of San Francisco will be back in May." Patti Anderson added, "It's great to be back. I'm so thrilled to be here on opening day, and we brought some new guests."

She sees tennis as good for rehabilitation. "Tennis is fun, and fun is happy," she said. "Happy thoughts are very healing to your mind, body and soul."

The new guests included

Jonathan Kau, who attends the University of Maryland and is on the Maryland Tennis Club team. Also included was Tom Rosencrantz, who started playing tennis in college and does more triathlons now.

Ricardo and Lisa Capretta visited San Quentin's Lower Yard with their 19-year-old daughter, Bianca, who is on the All-Marin Tennis Team and was on the number one doubles team for Branson High School.

The Caprettas felt comfortable among the ITT players.

"You guys are all nice," said Lisa. "It's a great experience. We love to give back to the community."

Ricardo added, "We wanted to come out and spend time with you guys."

Bianca and her dad were swept, 4-0, by ITT players Rick Hunt and Paul Oliver.

"She's not playing consistently; she's a little rusty," said Lisa, who couldn't play due to a rotator cuff shoulder injury.

Bianca, teamed up with Kau, also lost her second match, 4-1, versus Ke Lam Nghiep and Darryl "Green Eyes" Perkins.

"I'm going to practice a lot and come back to redeem myself," said Bianca.

The matches started with N. Young and Raphael Calix facing Rosencrantz and Kau.

The Inside Tennis Team started strong. Young met a slow lob at the net and sent it over Kau's head for the point.

"He's got his A game going today," said Kent about Young.

"When he plays under control and keeps that spin on the ball, he's an A player."

However, the guests recovered and won the match, 4-2.

"I had to get used to their lobs," said Kau. "I had to pick it off the rise."

"I'm looking forward to displaying my new skills," said ITT's Clay Long before his match. "I want to test my skills against people from the outside who have been playing for years."

"He has Michael Jordan shorts on; he's ready," joked Lava about Long.

Chris Schuhmacher and Long teamed up against guests Patti and Kent and lost, 0-4.

"They won just barely," said Schuhmacher. "It was a really close 0-4."

"Clay hit some really tough shots, and he had a good volley too," Patti noted.

"My partner had to warm up;

it takes two," remarked Long, smiling.

Patti also worked on her game during the off-season.

"I worked on two things, and they worked. I learned to watch ball contact and connect with the strings," said Patti. "I'm also dropping my back knee. It allows you to follow through and stay down on the stroke, which gives you top spin and helps you give a full stroke."

The last match was Kent and Rosencrantz pitted against ITT members Oliver and Calix. ITT won 4-1.

"Blocking out Raphael was the key to my success," joked Oliver about his partner.

The day ended in good cheer, with the guests and ITT circled in a huddle. Tim Thompson thanked the guests for "blessing us with your presence."

Then everyone put a hand in the middle and yelled, "Inside Tennis Team!"

# Basketball Game Unites Muslims and Christians

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Muslims and Christians came together for a full court basketball game to promote unity before a crowd of hundreds gathered on San Quentin's Lower Yard.

Before the game started, Derrick Holloway, the Graced Out Ministries team captain, and Thomas "Hakeem" Holmes of team Deen-u-Haqq (Way of Truth) agreed to mix up the teams in the spirit of unity. The blending of the players gave birth to teams, Stay Ready and Teamwork.

The winner would be the first to score 100 points with each quarter ending at 25-point intervals. Stay Ready withstood a late game push and won 100-98.

"As with faith and all we do, we should keep it 100," said Juan Meza of Graced-Out, who played for Teamwork.

Both teams gave 100 percent. Joshua Burton of Stay Ready ended the game with a free-throw that stopped Teamwork's comeback short.

Teamwork overcame a 15-point deficit in the fourth quarter. Then Teamwork started to pressure Stay Ready's inbound passes, which resulted in five turnovers.

Harry "ATL" Smith stole the ball and finished with a monster dunk. Teammates Marvin Cosby and Aubra-Lamont "Cocoo" McNeely both aided with buckets off the turnovers.

Cosby hit two short jumpers, and McNeely added two three-pointers to close the gap to 95-

92.

Stay Ready put in fresh guards Burton and Talib Batten. Both attacked Teamwork's defense, making their way to the free-throw line to end their scoring drought.

In the first quarter, Teamwork started off with an 8-0 lead.

Stay Ready regrouped using team height and dominated the boards with center Lawrence and Pela. Stay Ready took the first quarter, 25-16.

Stay Ready stayed on a roll with the dual guard play of Batten and Alias Jones. They pushed Stay Ready to a 32-16 lead.

Teamwork responded with a smaller lineup. This change forced Stay Ready to go smaller, but their smalls were still too big for Teamwork.

Stay Ready finished the second quarter with a 50-32 lead for the half.

Harun Taylor took over the coaching for Teamwork from Andre Yancy. He stayed with a smaller lineup, allowing his big men to rest. This strategy helped Teamwork cut the lead to 69-59.

Coach Holmes countered by putting back in his big men, Donte Smith, David Bennett and Pela. They turned the tide back to Stay Ready by controlling all the loose rebounds.

Stay Ready ended the third quarter 76-62. Teamwork finished with a push by their own big men: H. Smith, Greg Eskridge and F. Hicks. They brought Teamwork within one point to Stay Ready's 99-98, but foul trouble put Stay Ready on the line to seal the deal.

After the game, the Christians, Muslims and non-denominational players formed a circle of brotherhood and ended in prayers.

"It's good to come together as brothers; it's a lot going on with (Islamic State) killing both Christians and Muslims. It's good to show unity and tolerance," said H. Smith.

"To see Christians, Muslims and non-denominational brothers showing unity can be healing," added J. "Mailman" Ratchford.

Deacon Yancy said, "This is the example the OGs should show the youngsters, that no one is alone here."

Coach Taylor finished with, "To see a group of believers come together means the whole yard won."

# Vincent Mackey Crowned San Quentin's Chess King

Vincent "Osiris" Mackey was crowned the chess king after winning a tournament that was open to all mainline units in San Quentin.

"We held the tournament to settle who was the best chess player between North and West blocks," said Darrel Smith. "Also, we wanted to see who would be interested in being part of a chess club we are in the beginning phases of trying to start."

Approximately 23 players participated, including two from H-unit. Each round was a best of a three-game series.

"The competition was stiff," said Smith. "There were a lot of quality players although a great deal of good players missed the tournament. One had to forfeit because he went on a family visit."

After defeating four opponents in straight sets to reach the finals, Mackey lost the first game of the series to North Block contender Zakee Hutchison.

"I overwhelmed him with my offense and tricked him into a position he couldn't win from," said Hutchison.

"After losing the first game, I set the pieces back up, slowed my game down and made sure I paid full attention," said Mackey.

Mackey won the next two games and the tournament.

"Whatever it is I play or do, I put my all in, with the intent to win," said Mackey. "I look

to overcome because there is always a way to overcome. Kings used to wage war based on chess."

"He (Mackey) is a very good player," said Hutchison. "He waits for you to make a mistake. I lost focus and gave away a knight. From that point he traded pieces and got me in a

position I couldn't win in the deciding game."

Mackey has also dominated in other chess tournaments. He is the reigning champion in the games held on holidays where, as the champ, he only plays whoever emerges to the finals. In this tournament, he had to start from the bottom.



Zakee Hutchison battling Vincent Mackey

Photo by Sam Hearns

"People felt I'm in a favorable position in the Holiday Tournaments," said Mackey. "They wanted a completely different format, and they got it."

The tournament was the first put together by Sam Johnson and Smith. They want to have a chess club that plays people from the outside. He said they need a sponsor, space and equipment.

"We have our eyes on a sponsor. If they say 'yes,' then we'll try to get the Berkeley Chess Federal involved," said Johnson.

"I would love to join a chess club, be its president and a player," joked Hutchison. "Hopefully, we can get ranking with the U.S. Chess Federation."

"I'm going to be the club's president," said Smith.

Hutchison said the lack of space affected his game. He faced Mackey at the tables on the Lower Yard, where people kept walking by.

"I was distracted by outside influences," said Hutchison. "We need to have an area where we can focus in on the game."

—By Rahsaan Thomas



# ASA Clinic Helps Umpires Get the Calls Right

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

A group of veteran umpires staged a training session for San Quentin prisoners to help improve their softball play calling.

"This is a clinic to make us better and prepare us for new fast-pitch softball league we are trying to start," said Damian Mitchell, a San Quentin umpire. "We're learning a lot of things we didn't know, like technique and technical things that will be enforced this year."

"They're in the perfect environment to learn the rules of the game and practice them," said Larry Long, a 20-year umpire veteran. "I want to help anytime anybody is interested in the sport; I want to give back like people have given to me."

Top officials from Amateur Softball Association, the governing body of umpires, held the clinic March 1 on the Lower Yard. The group of expert umpires consisted of Jim Cole, the Northern California Umpiring Chief of the ASA, his deputy chief, CO Beaton, Long and Chris Elze.

The veteran crew has a combined 75 years of experience.



Photo by Sam Hearnnes

Umpire Damian Mitchell running into position to see John Windham trying to stop the runner from taking home plate

They have umpired every level of softball from age 10 and under, high school, all divisions of college, International Championships and even Olympic teams on their tours.

Cole has 540 umpires working under him in 28 counties from Redwood City north to the

Oregon border. He has 40 years of experience.

"I'm just an umpire," he said. "I've wanted to come here for years."

Beaton is having the San Quentin residents take the umpire test and seeks to get them registered with the ASA.

well as high school and junior high games.

"You have to know the rules to be a good umpire," said Elze. "That takes practice and homework. There are different rules for each level of softball, but they are all based on the ASA rule book."

The opportunity to learn how to umpire attracted current San Quentin softball and baseball umpires, players and others.

"I like to watch, so I figured it would be fun to be an umpire," said inmate Ralph Cedejas, who is new to umpiring.

The inmates were taught umpiring plate and base mechanics. They received on-the-field instruction and watched a video. The video demonstrated the various positions umpires should run to view the play and make the call.

"They never make a call from behind the base," softball player John Windham noticed as he watched.

They were also given the 2015

ASA Official Rules of Softball Participant Manual, its supplement and the 2015 ASA umpire exam, compliments of Kevin Ryan, the ASA/USA director of umpires.

"The test is based on championship play – by the book," Cole said.

The ASA umpires described some of the hardest things about the task.

"Self-judgment is the hardest part of being an umpire," said Long. "I don't care what other people think, but I know when I screw up, it hurts."

"The hardest thing about umpiring is dealing with the coaches and fans," said Elze. "You can regulate the players, but fans are a different story."

"It's hard trying to get parents and spectators to understand the rules of the game," said Cole.

"Umpires have to have thick skin," said Beaton.

"Make calls with authority so no one will argue with it," said Cole.

"I ignore unruly fans at the adult level," said Long. "They paid for their ticket, so they get to do whatever they want to try and make my life miserable."

"Coaches, players and fans are all going to say something. You have to block them out," said Elze.

"Having fun is the important thing," said Long. "Everything else will come, but if you're not having fun, it's going to be painful."

"We are learning the official rules," said Willie Thompson, the home plate umpire for San Quentin hardball and softball games. "It's helping a lot."

"The people here really want to learn and they have shown tremendous progress in one day," said Long. "I didn't know what I would see."

"I'm really impressed with the noticeable improvement," said Beaton.



File Photo

Jim Cole, Chris Elze, Officer Beaton and Larry Long

# Carlos Ramirez Takes First in Six-Mile Race

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Carlos Ramirez took first place in the 1000 Mile Club six-mile race with a time of 41:34 and a 6-minute and 56-second mile pace.

Ramirez credits his victory to his coaches' training schedule and help with preparation.

"I have a winner's mentality," said Ramirez. "Most of the time I came in second, so I pushed myself a little harder to see what would happen."

It was a warm sunny day with a light breeze. Chris Scull took the lead for the first lap, but Ramirez shot in front for good from the second lap on.

Scull came in second with a time of 42:36. Steve Reitz finished third with a time of 42:46.

"It's a good accomplishment," said Scull. "First, second and third are like gold, silver and bronze."

Scull uses running to keep everything in perspective. It helps to focus his mind, body and spirit.

"This is my first time taking third place," said Reitz. "In other races I tied for third."

Reitz credits his improvement to reading a book called *Born to Run*. It helped him change his style. He also credits the competition pushing him, along with the running logs and advice from the 1000 Mile coaches Frank Ruona, Kevin Rumon and Diana Fitzpatrick.

Larry Ford, who is 59 years old, came in fourth with a time of 42:56. Ford is a mentor to those in the running club.

"It's great (that) the runners work together," said Fitzpatrick. "Running across different boundaries, you see the guys support each other, and that gives them all the values of rehabilitation," said Fitzpatrick.

"I haven't run since boot



Photo by Kristine Stokakis

Jesus Sanchez, Abel Armengol, Eddie Herena, Ralph Ligons, Carlos Ramirez and Clifton Williams

camp," said first-time 1000 Mile race runner B. Wells Jr. "This gives legitimacy to runners you see running long distances, that it can be done."

The coaches stood by until the last man crossed the fin-

ish line. Simon Liu, who got a late start, came in with a time of 44:51 in the Feb. 27 event. However, it was Andrew Gazzeny, 48, who finished last with a time of 56:11.

"Just to finish and stay

healthy is good; a lot of us aren't spring chickens anymore," said Jerry Gearin, 48, who finished with a time of 47:52. "Running gives us a better understanding of our physical capabilities."



# San Quentin's Iconic Painter Alfredo Santos Dies at 87

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

Alfredo Santos, a San Quentin legend, died at the age of 87, at 6:15 a.m. at Jacob Healthcare in San Diego on Friday, March 15.

Famed for his creation of the murals in San Quentin's South Dining Hall, Santos gained recognition for this work in 2003 when he returned to the prison to view the work he completed almost 50 years prior.

Santos won a prison art

contest to paint a mural on one of the 100-foot-long dining hall walls and began painting in 1953.

After completion of the first mural, prison officials decided to allow Santos to continue painting, and he has generally been credited with all six 12-foot-high murals on the walls of the dining hall.

With the help of two fellow prisoners, Santos worked nights painting the murals.

The murals depict scenes from California's early history and through its golden years. Movie stars and soldiers crowd the walls. A space rocket is pictured in one of the murals. This early illustration was painted in the infancy of the space race between the U.S. and Russia and may be the earliest example of spaceship art in murals.

Santos' murals

depict an advanced use of perspective that allows objects such as a giant plane and trolley to look as if they are headed straight at a viewer no matter which side of the dining hall he's viewing from. Santos also interjected humor and risqué scenes into his murals. He painted a "peeping Tom" watching a woman undress from a rooftop in one of the murals.

There is a common myth at San Quentin that Santos used coffee grounds or shoe polish to paint the murals, but the truth is he applied raw sienna oil paint directly to the plaster.

"Santos was allowed

only one color; officials feared inmates might steal paint and dye their clothes in an effort to escape," reported the *Los Angeles Times*.

In 1951, Santos was convicted of possession of heroin. He had limited training as an artist before being incarcerated.

After he was freed from prison in 1955, "Santos worked at Disneyland as a caricaturist and then opened a studio and gallery in San Diego, his hometown," the *New York Times* wrote.

According to the same article, Santos again found himself on the wrong side of the law and fled to Mexico after pleading guilty to possession of marijuana. He returned to the U.S. in 1967, where he continued his work as an artist. Over the years, he ran several successful art galleries in Mexico and New York.

Although Santos had many accomplishments as an artist in his 87 years, "San Quentin is where I became an artist," he once told the *New York Times*.



Another one of Alfredo Santos' pastel drawings



Alfredo Santos working diligently on some of his early paintings



A pastel drawing of Eartha Kitt



Certificate of Commendation



San Quentin Dining Hall #2



San Quentin Dining Hall #3



San Quentin Dining Hall #3



San Quentin Dining Hall #1



San Quentin Dining Hall #4



San Quentin Dining Hall #2