

# San Quentin News

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS  
Award Winner

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

VOL. 2015 NO. 7 July 2015

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,686

## Prison University Project Celebrates 9 Graduates



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Valedictorian Keung Vanh displays his diploma at PUP graduation ceremony

See, [Get On The Bus](#) Mother's Day and Father's Day celebration on pages 8-9. In June, [Get On The Bus](#) held celebrations at: San Quentin State Prison, California Men's Colony, Correctional Training Facility and Salinas Valley State Prison. Scheduled for July: Folsom State Prison, California State Prison-Sacramento and Folsom Women's Facility. For more information, visit [www.getonthebus.us](http://www.getonthebus.us).

## New York State Prison Refuses to Accept SQ News

A prison in New York State found *San Quentin News* unacceptable reading material for its inmates because the paper allegedly advocates lawlessness, violence, anarchy or rebellion against the government.

New York inmate G. Erwin, a *San Quentin News* subscriber,

received a "Sender Disapproval Notice," instead of the February 2015 edition.

The Orleans Correctional Facility in Albion, N.Y., (near Rochester) evaluated the paper and circled two reasons why it wouldn't be allowed into the prison population.

"D. Any publication which advocates and presents a clear and immediate risk of lawlessness, violence, anarchy or rebellion against the governmental authority is unacceptable."

"E. The publication should not

See NY on Page 5

## Immigration Attorney Offers Answers to Deportation Policies



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

'I feel good to fight for a person's right to stay in the United States,' said immigration lawyer Marc Van Der Hout

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Immigration attorney Marc

Van Der Hout came to San Quentin to talk about immigration policy. For once he wasn't venturing into prison on behalf

of a client.

"Since 1996 there are groups

See Immigration on Page 4

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Valedictorian Keung Vanh told a packed college graduation audience that when he came to prison 20 years ago, "I didn't even have a high school diploma."

On June 12, the standing-room-only Protestant Chapel served as an auditorium, as Vanh and eight other graduates also accepted their Associate of Arts degrees from the San Quentin Prison University Project.

In the audience were the graduates' family members, community volunteers, PUP teachers, prison administrators and fellow prisoners.

Vanh began his valedictorian speech by explaining how shyness, while growing up, made his educational journey challenging.

"Whenever my teacher asked

me to repeat something, my shyness would keep me quiet," Vanh said. "So, my third grade teacher questioned my ability to learn."

Vanh said because of his quietness he was "labeled academically challenged and sent to remedial school." The experience had a lasting effect on his self-esteem, he said.

"After awhile I began believing this; then I started falling behind," he said. "By the time I reached high school, I had new challenges — gang violence, which caused me to be kicked out of school three times."

Vanh said his troubled life included committing criminal acts that led to imprisonment at age 16.

"When I first came to prison, I was locked in a cell 23 hours a day," he said. "Then I began learning when a teacher came

See PUP on Page 12-13

## Warriors Compete Against Prisoners During NBA Finals

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

In the midst of NBA finals, Golden State Warriors General Manager Bob Myers and assistant GM Kirk Lacob played some basketball on their own against the San Quentin Warriors. Myers played for the Green Team and led with 26 points and 23 rebounds in their 85-79 victory.

"I think it (coming into San Quentin) shows that we care and that people are people no matter what station you are in life," said Myers.

It was June 6, the day before game two of the Golden State Warriors NBA finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers and the biggest moment for the Warriors in 40 years—the last time they reached the finals.

"When I play basketball, I forget about everything else. It's a good release for my mind," said Myers.

"Basketball is my calm place, my happy place," added Lacob. "Playing hard is a release from life. When I play basketball, I don't have to worry about anything except what's happening here on the court."

It was a sunny day with a strong breeze that didn't seem to hamper jump shots. The S.Q. Warriors came out in the first quarter with great energy and got off to a 4-0 run, then Myers nailed three-pointers back-to-



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Coach Daniel Wright (left) greets Bob Myers before the game

back, taking the lead and setting the tone.

"I didn't have to do a lot — just get the ball to Bob," said Evan Fjelds.

Ben Illegbodun defied the wind

See Warriors on Page 23



## Inside Edition #70

Prison University Project	1	'Bedtime Stories'	10
Warriors Executives	1	Senators aim to revive	10
New York State Prison	1	Julius Caesar & Macbeth	11
Immigration Attorneys	1	Prison University Proj.	12-13
49ers' Chaplain	2	Arts & Entertainment	14
L.A. Mental Health	3	Kid CAT host Amala walk	15
New law restore voting	3	Asked On The Line	16
Combined systems	3	Back in the Day	16
Health inspection	3	News Briefs	17
Fed. funds to fight crime	3	Botched lethal injection	18
Abogado de Inmigracion	4	Movie Review	18
5 Criminal Justice	5	Book Review	18
Substance abuse	5	Construction Tech progr.	19
Editorial	6	Music, Spoken word, ...	20
Kid CAT Speaks!	7	Yard Talk	20
'Get On The Bus'	8	Veterans' Dramas	21
'Bus Program'	9	Sports	22-23
An 'OG's' Perspective	10	Vets pay tribute to fallen	24

# 49ers' Chaplain Earl Smith And Players Tour San Quentin



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Pastor Earl Smith (Niners Hoodie) walking with several 49er players including Tony Jerod-Eddie, Joe Looney, Torrey Smith (Black V-Neck T-shirt) and San Quentin inmates after touring South Block Dining Hall

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

San Francisco 49ers Chaplain Earl Smith returned recently to San Quentin with 44 members of the football organization.

"There is a thin line between players and inmates. You have a number and they have a number. What can we do to make a difference for both sides?" said Smith about why he brings the players into the prison.

Smith is a former San Quentin Protestant chaplain.

He has brought 49ers into the prison for over 15 years and 49er legend Keena Turner has accompanied him on about seven occasions.

The pastor started the IMPACT program inside San Quentin and is teaching those same principles to the professional football players.

IMPACT stands for Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things. It teaches that the male role belief system taught in the ghetto is wrong and IMPACT replaces the false beliefs with a positive way of thinking.

The June 3 tour started with the Niners being greeted by inmates Tommy Winfrey, John Windham, Clay Thompson, Adnan Khan, Leroy Lucas, Azraal "Big AZ" Ford, Sam Johnson, Miguel Quezada, Joey Mason, John Vaden, G. Lumumba Edwards, Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll and Upu Ama.

Winfrey told the visitors about the realities of prison life and then everyone broke into separate groups for discussions.

Rookie quarterback Dylan Thompson, a former South Carolina Gamecock, said, "It's cool that inmates still see value in people. Society sees you as outcasts. You could have chosen to say, 'Screw it,' but you chose to make the best of it."

Turner said, "It's impactful that you guys share your experiences honestly with our guys. It gives us a chance to have a different perspective. Right after the tours, we have an open discussion about the visit to understand how life really is the choices that come down to a moment and their consequences."

For the rookies, coming in was a mandatory part of touring out for the Niners. How-

ever, several active players and coaches volunteered to join the tour.

Niner guard and center Joe Looney heard about how impactful the experience is from his brother James Looney, who plays football for the University of California, Berkeley. The Cal Bear came in a few weeks before as part of the SQUIRES program, which offers a similar tour.

"A lot of guys here are real cool and they're getting their lives together and making a change at the prison," Joe's brother told him. Joe said he agrees now.

Torrey Smith, who was a Raven for four years, is now a Niner. He came in for the experience and to "put some smiles on people's faces and be a light."

As he toured the Prison Industry Authority section of the prison where mattresses are made, he made a few fans' that day.

"Torrey Smith! You stopped my Steelers from winning. You are awesome," said an inmate.

Current Niner Tony Jerod-Eddie said he came in because, "This is real close to home. I have a lot of people in the system and I wanted to see what it's like inside."

Thomas McGaughey, a former Eagle and Bengal, is now coaching for the 49ers.

He came in "just for the experience and to see the famous San Quentin. It's not often you get to visit a historic landmark."

After leaving PIA, the Niners walked the yard, greeting fans, then toured the reception center and toured upper yard.

Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson led the tour into the South dining hall where he pointed out secrets the art murals there hold, like a hidden demon, and how the pictures seem to change direction when looked at from different perspectives.

"I learned a lot of history and those drawings stuck with me," said Michael Davis, a rookie from South Carolina.

By the end of the day, the Niners reported learning a lot.

Issac Blakeney (Duke University) said, "People try guys with high profile status at clubs. Seeing the other side of bad consequence is a reminder to swallow my pride and keep it moving.

It's not worth it."

"My dad has been to prison. Seeing how small the cells are puts things in perspective. I don't see how ya'll do it," said rookie safety Jaquiski Tartt from Samford University.

Rookie Bradley Pinion, an NFL fifth-round draft pick from Clemson University, said, "I learn from ya'll as much as ya'll learn from me."

"I don't place judgment on people because they made a mistake," said Torrey Smith.

"I don't want to come here (to prison). Seeing this place cemented that for me," said Trent Brown, a rookie from the University of Florida.

The players had something to teach inmates too.

DeAndre Campbell, an Oakland native and rookie from the University of Washington, credits staying out of trouble to "staying busy and understanding that nothing good could come from what some of my classmates were doing. I've seen some of them die."

"The league is a business. Everybody is competing for the same job and if you get it, somebody gets cut," said Dres Anderson, a rookie from the Utah Utes. The wide receiver has a major in mass communication and plans to be a sportscaster after his last football reception.

For Tartt, listening kept him out of trouble. "My dad told me that (selling drugs) wasn't the way to go," said Tartt.

Jim Tomsula, the new Niners' head coach, couldn't make it.

"He's mad he couldn't come. He got stuck in meetings with some big wigs. He wanted to be here," said assistant coach Ryan Cordell.

Other members of the Niners who visited included:

Dr. Harry Edwards (49er staffer), Pat Miller (Auburn), Marcus Rush (Michigan State), Trent Brown (Florida), T.C. McCartney (coach), Blake Bell (Oklahoma), Ian Silberman (Boston College and NFL 6<sup>th</sup> draft round pick), DeAndre Campbell (University of Washington), DeAndrew White (University of Alabama), James Hall (director of player engagement), Buster Anderson (South Carolina), DeAndre Smelter (Georgia Tech), Jermaine Whitehead (Auburn), and Eric Wolford (coach).

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

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

**Journalism Guild**  
of SAN QUENTIN

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

**We Want To Hear From You!**

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

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

Send Submissions to:

CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964

To receive a mailed copy of the San Quentin News, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to:

San Quentin News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94974

The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

**San Quentin News**

Current and past copies of the San Quentin News are posted online at:  
(www.sanquentinnews.com)  
(www.flickr.com/photos/sanquentinnews)

Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in the San Quentin News provided credit is given to the author and this publication, except for articles reprinted herein from other publications.

**Administrative Review**

Warden's Office ..... Lt. S. Robinson  
..... Sgt. Chris Siino  
CDCR Public Information Officer .....  
..... Kristina Khokhobashvili  
Adviser ..... Joan Lisetor  
Adviser ..... Linda Xiques  
Adviser ..... Jennifer Lyons  
Adviser ..... John C. Eagan  
Adviser ..... Steve McNamara  
Adviser ..... William Drummond  
Adviser ..... Jon Spurlock

**S. Q. News Staff**

Editor-in-Chief ..... Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Managing Editor ..... Juan Haines  
Deputy Editor ..... R. Malik Harris  
Journalism Guild Chairman .....  
..... Kevin D. Sawyer  
Staff Writer ..... Miguel Quezada  
Staff Writer ..... Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer ..... Westley Eisiminger  
Sports Editor ..... Rahsaan Thomas  
Researcher ..... Richard Lindsey  
Graphic Designer ..... Phoeun You  
Design Editor ..... Richard Richardson

# L.A. Mental Health Strategy Looks to Lower Jail Population

By Lee Jaspas  
Journalism Guild Writer

The national movement toward alternatives to jail programs for people with mental illness was implemented late last year in Los Angeles County.

The pilot program could dramatically change the landscape of the local justice and jail systems, said Karen Tamis of the Vera Institute of Justice, in a *Los Angeles Times* article.

“Los Angeles County has a real problem with people with mental health issues in the jail system,” Tamis said. “This

could have a very significant impact on the jail population as a whole.”

“This is not a specialty court,” Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky told reporter Marisa Gerber. “It’s a new template.”

Judge Steve Leifman, who helped start the Criminal Mental Health Project in Florida, said when the program started in 2000 the recidivism rate for low-level misdemeanor offenders with mental illness was 72 percent. Now it is down to 20 percent.

The Miami-Dade plan,

which included training thousands of police officers on how to deal with people who have mental illnesses, cut the local jail population nearly in half, and allowed the county to close one of its facilities, Gerber reported.

“It’s time to stop bouncing people who are mentally ill and genuinely sick between the streets and our jails,” said Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey. “This is an unconscionable waste of human life and money.”

Getting prosecutors on board is often one of the biggest ob-



File photos

Political leaders: Zev Yaroslavsky and Judge Steve Leifman advocate for more mental health programs

stacles, said Leifman. “With her (Lacey) buying in to this, it makes it so much more likely to succeed.”

The program requires eligible defendants with serious mental health issues to go through

a series of assessments and be paired with a case worker at San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center. The program’s participants will then be placed in transitional housing, reported Gerber.

## New Law Would Restore Voting Rights to Ex-Felons

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

Congress is considering legislation to restore federal voting rights to former prisoners.

“The right to vote is the most

basic constitutive act of citizenship,” according to the measure, SB 772, introduced March 18 and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

“An estimated 5,850,000 citizens of the United States, or

about 1 in 40 adults in the United States, currently cannot vote as a result of a felony conviction. Of the 5,850,000 citizens barred from voting, only 25 percent are in prison,” the bill states.

The measure also says state disenfranchisement laws disproportionately impact racial and ethnic minorities.

“Given current rates of incarceration, approximately one in three of the next generation of African-American men will be disenfranchised at some point during their lifetime,” the bill states.

The bill titled “Democracy Restoration Act of 2015” says its purpose is “To secure the federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.”

The drafters of the bill stated that “disenfranchising citizens who have been convicted of a criminal offense and who are living and working in the community serves no compelling state interest and hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.”

Various states have their own rules regarding disenfranchisement. Only two states do not disenfranchise individuals with criminal convictions (Maine and Vermont).

In the 48 other states, citizens in some states may easily regain the right to vote, and in some others, the right to vote can be restored only through a pardon from their state governor. In 11 states a conviction can result in

permanent disenfranchisement.

“In six states – Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia – more than 7 percent of the total population is disenfranchised,” the bill states.

If this bill survives through both houses of Congress and is signed into law by the president, then it would provide uniform relief to disenfranchised citizens and restore their right to vote in federal elections, but not for state or local elections.

[On a June 19 visit to San Quentin News Office Congresswoman, Jackie Speier, (D) 14th U.S. Congressional District, said she supports this Bill. See, August edition for full story on Speier’s visit.]

## Combined Systems Approach Helps The Newly Released

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

Transitional planning for newly released inmates is essential to address mental health and associated disorders using a cross-systems approach.

Samhsa’s Gains Center for Behavior Health and Justice Transformation released a report last November that emphasized the necessity of combining criminal justice and behavioral health treatment interventions. The collaborative focus will assist in the fight to reduce recidivism and promote recovery.

The report, “Guidelines for the Successful Transition of People with Behavioral Health Disorders from Jail and Prison,” was developed to assist corrections professionals and mental health professionals.

The Behavioral Health Framework produced a paradigm that categorizes and identifies the subgroups in our society based strictly on behavioral health and criminogenic needs.

The report emphasized that in order to create a realistic opportunity for a successful re-entry, behavioral health, corrections and community corrections agencies must become partners.

A plan for state and local levels of government to interact on this endeavor was based on the following principles: assessing, planning, identifying and coordinating.

1. Assessing the individual’s clinical and social needs, and public safety risk

2. Plan for the treatment and services required to address the individual’s needs

3. Identify required community and correctional programs responsible for post-release services

4. Coordinate the transition plan to ensure implementation and avoid gaps in care with community-based services

Each of these principles addresses an area of importance in the fight against recidivism. They also act as guides to evidence-based transitional planning.

The report concluded that, “applying these principles, state and local policymakers and behavioral health and criminal justice practitioners can promote the development of effective transition and reentry practices for individuals with behavioral health disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system.”

## Health Inspection Reveals Unsanitary Prison in Southern CA

*‘In the kitchen, raw chicken was stored above cooked halal chicken for Muslim inmates’*

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

A Southern California prison has numerous unsanitary conditions, a health inspection disclosed.

Dozens of violations were reported at the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) in Norco. They include standing water, cockroach infestations, rodent droppings and wastewater not draining, the *Reuters* news agency reported.

The findings are reported in a 109-page report obtained by *Reuters* under a Public Records Act request. The report was prepared as a regular review of prison facilities.

There was no hot water in bathroom sinks, and the dishwashers did not reach the temperature required to ensure sanitation, the report added.

“In the kitchen, raw chicken was stored above cooked halal chicken for Muslim inmates, raising the risk that the raw meat could drip onto the cooked food and contaminate it,” *Reuters* reported.

State Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, called the report “shocking,” and urged closure of the 100-year-old facility, *Reuters* reported.

CRC houses 2,400 inmates and is considered by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

(CDCR) as necessary bed space to accommodate its overcrowded prison population, *Reuters* reported.

CDCR spokesperson Deborah Hoffman told *Reuters* that steps are being taken to improve the facilities’ infrastructure issues and other conditions.

Before becoming a prison, the facility was a naval hospital. Before that, it was a lakeside resort, having originally opened in 1928, according to *Reuters*.

There have been earlier plans to close CRC, but the federal court order to relieve overcrowding has prevented that from happening, Hoffman said.

## States Got \$278.4 Million in Federal Funds to Fight Crime in 2013

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

The federal government provided \$278.4 million in special grants in 2013 to fight crime in states, territories and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Department of Justice reports.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program (JAG) uses a formula-

based award system for law enforcement, prosecution, courts and other crime-affiliated programs. Local governments received \$88.4 million while states received \$183.1 million.

The determinate for local allocations was based upon proportions of the state’s three-year violent crime average. The congressionally mandated formula allocates half of the

funds based on a state’s or territory’s share of violent crime and half of the funds based on population.

California accounts for 12.96 percent of the nation’s total population and received \$30.8 million.

A smaller state such as Vermont accounts for less than 1 percent of the nation’s total crime and 2 percent of

the nation’s population. Vermont received approximately \$366,000.

California has \$12.3 million set aside for local awards based on its three-year violent crime averages of 161,997 crimes. Each crime was valued at \$76.13. Vermont got \$278,392 for 623 crimes, or \$446.86 per crime.

The city of Oakland has a

three-year average of 6,570 violent crimes, or 4.1 percent of all violent crimes in California. It is eligible for about \$500,000 (6,570.67 multiplied by \$76.13).

JAG awards may also be used for crime prevention, corrections, drug treatment, technology improvement and crime victim and witness programs.



# Abogado de Inmigración Comparte Respuestas A Preguntas sobre Polizas de Deportación

Por Kevin Sawyer  
Presidente del Gremio  
Periodístico

Traducción Miguel Quezada

El abogado de inmigración Mark Van Der Hout experimento lo que es estar dentro de una prisión por primera vez y no fue por ir a visitar alguno de sus clientes.

“Desde el año 1996 han existido diversos grupos que han tratado de remendar la reforma migratoria ‘96’ que el (presidente Clinton no prohibiría,” en el mes de Mayo, el abogado Van Der Hout le comento a los prisioneros de San Quentin. “Antes del año 1996 era usual recibir un alivio discrecional.”

El abogado Van Der Hout fue acompañado por el abogado de defensa Dan Barton. “La ayuda de un abogado de inmigración es esencial para el abogado de defensa criminal, cuando el cliente es un inmigrante enfrentando la posibilidad de deportación,” Barton comento. “Primeramente un abogado debe darse cuenta que su cliente es un inmigrante ilegal en los Estados Unidos.”

El abogado Van Der Hout menciona, “me da gusto pelear por los derechos que tiene una persona, para que pueda quedarse en los Estados Unidos.”

Además dijo que el Dream Act (La proposición para Los Soñadores) hubiera ayudado a muchos jóvenes inmigrantes a posponer su posible deportación, añadiendo que cuando el congreso no aprobó la reforma migratoria, el Presidente Obama comenzó el programa DACA (que es una acción para posponer la llegada de niños). En respuesta, los Republicanos en 26 estados pusieron una demanda buscando obtener un alivio para bloquear el programa.



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

‘Me siento bien pelear por el derecho para que una persona se quede en los Estados Unidos,’ dijo abogado de inmigración Marc Van Der Hout

La demanda, de acuerdo con el abogado Van Der Hout, fue estratégicamente presentada frente a una Corte de Distrito en los Estados Unidos en donde la decisión sería predecible, incluyendo también el resultado de una apelación en la Corte de Apelación de los Estados Unidos, en el Quinto Distrito. Una orden de la corte es efectiva hasta que la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos llegue a una decisión sobre si el estado tiene el poder suficiente para detener un programa federal.

Otros problemas que enfrentan los inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos fueron también discutidos, incluyendo el procesamiento por terrorismo.

El abogado Van Der Hout comento que “el terrorismo, de acuerdo a las leyes de inmigración, puede ser algo tan simple como pretender tirar una piedra en contra de un edificio.”

El grupo de ‘Los Angeles Eight’ (Los Ocho de Los Angeles) era integrado por miembros Palestinos de PFLP (El Frente

Popular para la Liberación de Palestina), acusados de apoyar materialmente al terrorismo al “distribuir periódicos que abogaban una ideología comunista,” comento el abogado. Van Der Hout represento a este grupo en un caso de ‘acusación selectiva’.

El abogado Van Der Hout dijo que los inmigrantes no pueden clamar una defensa de ‘acusación selectiva’ a lo que el abogado cuestiono el porque los Estados Unidos no estaban levantando cargos en contra de los Cubanos y Afghanistanos que están peleando constantemente por el comunismo. El caso fue presentado a la Suprema Corte de los Estados Unidos la cual tomo una decisión, después de 22 años, a favor de los acusados.

La Acción de los Refugiados requiere que todos los refugiados sean tratados igualmente. Debido a que los Estados Unidos no apoyo la guerra en El Salvador ni en Guatemala en los años ochentas, el abogado, Van Der Hout, comento que más de un 90 por ciento de los refugiados que

buscaban asilo político, fueron negados.

Debido a que Estados Unidos apoyo la guerra en Nicaragua en aquel entonces, de acuerdo a Van Der Hout, fue considerado como un trato preferencial ya que le otorgo asilo político a la mayoría de refugiados de ese país lo cual fue una acción discriminatoria.

El abogado Van Der Hout presento una demanda de clase social en contra del gobierno Americano. El abogado comento que el caso fue finalmente resuelto después de cinco años por lo cual el gobierno se vio obligado a reajustar todos los casos de los inmigrantes de Guatemala y El Salvador.

Un discurso corto fue emitido sobre las tres agencias que reemplazaron el INS (El Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización) después del 11 de Septiembre del 2001 explicando que los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración (Citizenship and Immigration Services CIS), los Servicios de Aduana y Patrulla Fronteriza (Customs and Bor-

der Patrol CBP), y los Servicios de Inmigración y de Control de Aduana (Immigration and Customs Enforcement ICE); todos están bajo el control del Departamento de Seguridad de la Patria de los Estados Unidos (Department of Homeland Security DHS).

“Felonía Agravada’ se a convertido en un chiste,” dijo Van Der Hout, explicando que antes había un termino descriptivo de crímenes tales como asesinato y la violación pero hoy incluye ofensas como robo; hasta crímenes que no conllevan tiempo en la cárcel. El dijo que hoy todos los crímenes definidos como felonías agravadas pueden resultar en la deportación, hasta para un residente legal.”

“¿Como describirías mejor el nexo entre políticas migratorias y el encarcelamiento masivo? Pregunto el reo Tommy Gardner.

“Es una buena pregunta,” dijo Van Der Hout, “el numero de personas detenidas por la inmigración es diez veces mayor.” El dijo que la encarcelación de inmigrantes ha aumentado dramáticamente, también incluyo que hay muchos con derechos de asilo político legítimos.

“Muchas cárceles locales han negado cumplir las detenciones del ICE,” dijo Van Der Hout. “California coopera con ICE.” También dijo que una condena de cárcel de un año puede llevar a la deportación de un inmigrante, pero una condena de 364 días o menos los permite quedarse en el país.

Un reo pregunto, “¿Cuanto tiempo tiene la inmigración para recogerte después de cumplir la condena?” De acuerdo a Van Der Hout, “Tienen 48 horas.”

James King, Salvador Solorio, Chung Kao, y James Abernathy contribuyeron en esta historia.

## Immigration Lawyer Informs Inmates About Deportation Issues

Continued from Page 1

trying to ‘fix ‘96,’ the immigration reform that (President Bill) Clinton would not veto,” Van Der Hout told inmates at San Quentin in May. “Before 1996, you could usually get discretionary relief.”

Defense attorney Dan Barton accompanied Van Der Hout. “The assistance of an immigration attorney is essential to a criminal defense attorney when the client is an immigrant facing the possibility of deportation,” said Barton. “An attorney must first realize their client is an immigrant.”

“I feel good to fight for a person’s right to stay in the United States,” said Van Der Hout.

He said the Dream Act would have helped many young immigrants by deferring deportation, adding that when Congress failed to pass immigration reform, President Obama started the deferred action childhood arrivals (DACA) program. In response, Republicans in 26 states filed suit seeking injunctive relief to block the program.

The suit, according to Van Der Hout, was strategically filed in a U.S. District Court in Texas, where the ruling would be predictable, including the outcome on appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit. An injunction remains in effect until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on whether a state can stop a federal program.

Other issues that immigrants encounter in the United States were discussed, including prosecution for terrorism.

“Terrorism under immigration law could be as minimal as threatening to throw a rock at a building,” said Van Der Hout.

The “Los Angeles Eight” were Palestinian members of the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) accused of materially supporting terrorism by “distributing newspapers that advocated communist ideology,” said Van Der Hout. He represented them in a “selective prosecution” case.

Van Der Hout said immigrants cannot raise a “selective prosecution” defense, but he challenged it because the U.S.



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Jose Camacho discusses immigration with Dan Barton

was not prosecuting Cubans and Afghanis fighting communism. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court and was decided in favor of the defendants, after 22 years.

The Refugee Act requires all refugees to be treated equally, he said. Because the U.S. did not support the war in El Salvador and Guatemala in the 1980s, Van Der Hout said over 90 percent of refugees seeking political asylum from those countries

were denied.

U.S. support for the war in Nicaragua at the time, according to Van Der Hout, gave preferential treatment – asylum – to most refugees from that country, which he said was discriminatory.

Van Der Hout filed a class-action lawsuit against the U.S. government. He said the case was settled after five years and the government had to re-adjudicate Guatemalan and El Salvadoran immigrants’ cases.

A short discourse ensued on the three agencies that replaced the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service). After Sept. 11, 2001, he explained, the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); all fall under the Department of Homeland Security.

“Aggravated felony’ has become a joke,” said Van Der Hout, explaining how it used to be a term delineating crimes such as murder and rape but now encompasses theft offenses – even those that carry no jail time. He

said now all crimes defined as an aggravated felony can lead to deportation, even for a legal resident.

“How would you best describe the nexus between our immigration policies and mass incarceration?” asked inmate Tommy Gardner.

“It’s a good question and correct to ask,” said Van Der Hout. “The number of people detained for immigration is tenfold.” He said incarceration of immigrants is up dramatically, adding that there are many with legitimate political asylum claims.

“A lot of local jails have refused to honor ICE holds,” said Van Der Hout. “California cooperates with ICE.” He also said a one-year sentence in jail can lead to an immigrant’s deportation, but a sentence of 364 days or less allows them to stay in the country.

One inmate asked, “How long after a sentence is completed does immigration have to pick you up?” According to Van Der Hout, “They have 48 hours.”

–James King, Salvador Solorio, Chung Kao, and James Abernathy contributed to this story.

# 5 Criminal Justice Experts Offer Ideas On Prison Population and Public Safety



File photo

Lenore Anderson



File photo

Nazgol Ghandnoosh



File photo

Lois M. Davis



File photo

Nicole Fortier



File photo

Lateefah Simon

## By Anouthinh Pangthong Journalism Guild Writer

Five criminal justice experts weighed in on suggestions California should pursue to reduce prison populations and improve public safety.

The article suggests California can learn from other states, including Texas, Illinois and Washington.

Lenore Anderson is executive director of Californians for Safety and Justice, a group described as “a nonprofit working to reduce over-incarceration with common-sense solutions that improve public safety and reduce taxpayer costs.”

Discussing Texas and its investment in health solutions, Anderson wrote, “One key lesson to learn from Texas’ success is their investment in health solutions for the health problems that many incarcerated people share: substance abuse disorders and mental illness.”

The recidivism rate for people who participated in Texas’ drug court was nearly eight times

lower than defendants who had not.

By addressing these issues, Texas has seen serious and violent crime decrease 12.8 percent since 2003. When a prison was closed, credit went to the successful investment in treating mental illness and substance abuse.

Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Ph.D., suggests eliminating the California governor’s power to nullify paroles granted by a state parole board. Ghandnoosh is a research analyst at the nonprofit group The Sentencing Project.

“Twenty years ago, Texas amended its constitution to end gubernatorial parole review. It’s well past time for California to depoliticize parole,” Ghandnoosh wrote.

California is one of five states that continue to allow governors to review parole suitability granted by the parole board. Prior to Gov. Jerry Brown, an average of 4 percent of lifers were granted parole.

Lois M. Davis suggests California follow the state of Wash-

ington’s example of focusing on rehabilitation. She is a senior policy researcher for the nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corp.

“California took a bold step in implementing the Public Safety Realignment Act. Now it should move beyond Realignment to focus on rehabilitation,” Davies wrote.

Its rehabilitation focus has helped Washington reduce its recidivism rate by an expected 6.3 percent, on average. Alternative rehabilitative services refer offenders to treatment programs, allowing prison to become the last resort.

“RAND’s recent national study on correctional education shows that adult offenders who participated in prison education programs reduced their risk of recidivating by 43 percent and that every \$1 invested in these programs resulted in about \$4-\$5 in savings in re-incarceration costs,” Davis said.

Nicole Fortier recommends California consider using funding to shape a better prison sys-

tem. She is counsel in the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law.

“A ‘Success-Oriented Funding’ model is a simple, yet effective approach: Lay out clear priorities for what taxpayer dollars should accomplish, then tie funding directly to achievement of those priorities,” Fortier wrote.

“The concept is simple: Fund what works to reduce crime and incarceration, and dump what doesn’t,” she said.

Illinois and New York City have adopted such a model, she added. The (California) Legislature “could provide additional funding – found within prison cost savings – to prosecutors’ offices that recommend alternatives to incarceration or to law enforcement agencies that issue citations in lieu of arrests.

“This could move California toward a smaller prison population and a more effective, socially beneficial, and efficient criminal justice system.”

Lateefah Simon recommends California follow the lead of

other states in reducing incarceration for low-level offenders. Simon, the program director for the Rosenberg Foundation, makes three recommendations:

1. Shift the “incarceration only” approach to invest in evidence-based alternatives that can reduce crime and racial injustice in the system.

2. Make reentry of prisoners a priority. Eliminate reentry barriers and invest in rehabilitation and critical support needed to help formerly incarcerated people live meaningful, productive lives, and keep them out of prison in the first place.

3. Build a broad-based coalition to champion change. This includes education, health, the economy, businesses and law enforcement.

“Cages can’t create safe and healthy communities,” Simon said. “Criminal justice reform is one of the leading civil rights issues of our time, and we must turn around the legacy of failed policies that are costing us not just dollars but also precious human potential.”

## Millions Affected by Substance Abuse, Mental Health Issues

### By Salvador Solorio Journalism Guild Writer

Drug use and mental health issues affect millions of adolescents and adults, according to the September 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) by the Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Persons 12 years and older, who were not institutionalized, were polled on illicit drug use, alcohol use, substance abuse treatment and reasons for not receiving treatment.

In 2013, an estimated 24.6 million individuals aged 12 or older were current (within the

past month) illicit drug users. In 2013, 60.1 million individuals were binge drinkers, including 1.6 million adolescents. Of an estimated 22.7 million who needed treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol use problem, only about 2.5 million received treatment at a specialty facility.

About 1 in 10 (10.7 percent) adolescents had a Major Depressive Episode (MDE) during the past year. Just 38.1 percent of those adolescents received treatment or counseling for depression.

In 2013, nearly one in five adults 18 years and older had a mental illness, 4.2 percent had a serious mental illness and 3.9

percent had serious thoughts of suicide.

The administration asked respondents about their illicit drug use in the 30 days before the interview. Illicit drugs included marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, hallucinogens, heroin and prescription-type drug abuse. An estimated 24.6 million Americans were current illicit drug abusers. Use of prescription drug abuse came second after marijuana at 9.4 percent.

More than half of Americans aged 12 or older were current alcohol users. Nearly one quarter (22.9 percent) were binge drinkers (60.1 million). Heavy drink-

ing was reported by 6.3 percent of the population (16.5 million).

Of adolescents aged 12 to 17, 11.6 percent were current alcohol users; 1.6 million reported binge drinking.

In 2013, almost 23 million had a Substance Use Disorder in need of treatment. An estimated 2.5 million received treatment at a specialty facility. This means over 20 million individuals did not receive treatment.

Reasons for not receiving treatment were (1) no health coverage or could not afford cost (37.3 percent), (2) not ready to stop, (3) did not know where to go for treatment, (4) health coverage, (5) no

transportation.

NSDUH estimates 43.8 million suffered any mental illness and 10 million were of serious mental illness. Suicide was contemplated by 9.3 million.

Of the 2.6 million adolescents in 2013 with MDE, 977,000 received treatment for depression. In 2013 34.6 million aged 18 or older had received mental health care during the past 12 months.

The administration stated health treatment is important to facilitate recovery. Treatment or counseling can also decrease risk of relapse and promote recovery and remission of mental disorders.

## New York State Prison Screens Out *San Quentin News*

*Continued from Page 1*

incite disobedience towards law enforcement officers or prison personnel. ‘Incite disobedience,’ for purposes of this guideline, means to advocate, expressly or by clear implication, acts of disobedience.”

The notice didn’t indicate which news stories they viewed as violating their standards. However, an article about the New York City Rikers Island jail on page 4 of the February 2015 issue reported on findings by the U.S. Justice Department that correctional officers systematically abused adolescent inmates on

Rikers Island.

“We conclude that there is a pattern and practice of conduct at Rikers that violates the constitutional rights of adolescent inmates,” the Aug. 4, 2014, Department of Justice report stated. “In particular, we find that adolescent inmates at Rikers are not adequately protected from harm, including serious physical harm from the rampant use of unnecessary and excessive force by DOC (Department of Corrections) staff.”

The article also mentioned steps taken to solve the abuse problems on Rikers and recommendations on more measures

that the New York Department of Corrections should take. No specific officers or incidents were written about.

Coincidentally, the February issue contained an article advising those protesting the killing of an unarmed Black man in Ferguson, M.O., to follow the non-violent principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was part of Watani Stiner’s regular OG Perspective column on page 13.

There was also a story on page 8 about a Muslim who found out he is housed in the same prison as a Christian man who murdered his uncle. The Muslim chose to forgive the reformed man instead

of seeking revenge.

“I could not deny the favor of forgiveness that God has given me. So, when it came to my brother, Holloway, I looked him in the eye and told him that I forgive him,” Isaiah “Abdul Raheem” Thompson-Bonilla told Derrick Holloway, the man who killed his uncle.

“They didn’t read it,” said Lt. Sam Robinson, the San Quentin Public Information Officer when shown the “Sender Disapproval Notice” from the New York prison. The lieutenant reads each issue of the *San Quentin News* prior to publication to check for articles that might involve prison

security concerns. The February issue would not have been cleared if he had any such concerns.

Indeed, had the New York authorities read the *San Quentin News* in its entirety, they would have seen that the newspaper promotes rehabilitation and peaceful ways to resolve conflicts. These articles that inspire hope in prisoners should not have been rejected in order to suppress information about the Justice Department’s report.

Censorship cannot hide the realities of abuses from inmates who have experienced them firsthand.

—Rahsaan Thomas



# San Quentin News 'Moves Forward'

## EDITORIAL

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

In 2008 Warden Robert Ayers removed *San Quentin News* from the shelf, dusted it off and put the responsibility of managing the newspaper in the hands of a group of inmates advised by retired professional journalists.

In our previous editorial, Steve McNamara wrote about the history of *SQ News* and how it was revived. What you didn't read about were the dreams that the inmate staff has to expand the newspaper to nationwide circulation.

The inmate staff is aware of the many challenges they would face to fulfill this endeavor. Nevertheless, they have stayed true to their vision. It has been an enormous challenge to implement these commitments while working with the administration to further our goal. *SQ News* wants the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to become fully acquainted with our ambitious plans.

We have evidence that our newspaper attracts attention throughout the California prison system and we think it is important to make the newspaper accessible to every prisoner in the state of California.

Our purpose is to educate the inmate population about rehabilitation and changes in criminal justice policies that affect them and their families. Conscious of that obligation, we have prepared a mission statement that reflects our goal.

Our Mission Statement: "We strive to report on forward-thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support changes in prisoners' behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts." Our aim is to heighten social awareness that the incarcerated person has something to offer the community.

Since its renaissance, *San Quentin News* has gained the positive attention of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), where the newspaper is recognized as an official media outlet.

In 2012, Dr. William Drummond from UC Berkeley's School of Journalism was asked to teach a Patten University class at the prison. When he became aware of the *San Quentin News* he immediately expressed an interest in working with the newspaper.

The following semester, Drummond brought in some of his UC students, who sat with our writers and helped develop stories. The students were so impressed with the results of these efforts that many of them returned for a second semester.

Six semesters later, visits by Drummond's journalism students are a regular part of the newspaper. Students eagerly register for his class, wanting

to become a partner in the *San Quentin News* vision.

Dr. Drummond realized that in order for *SQ News* to meet its goal of putting a newspaper in the hands of every prisoner in CDCR, the staff would require guidance from business professionals.

Professor Drummond helped us broaden our vision by introducing our news program to the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. In 2013, a group of Master of Business Administration (MBA) students from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business began meeting regularly with the *SQ News*' staff to plan how to move the newspaper forward.

After weeks of interviewing, evaluating and assessing the feasibility of growing a small newspaper's operation into a medium-size publication, the MBA students developed a business plan that outlines how *SQ News* could expand circulation to reach every California prisoner within 12 years.

The project was led by Jon Spurlock, MBA. Once the San Quentin Haas Project Report was completed, he assumed a continuing role as a business adviser to *SQ News*. His knowledge of business development provides direction on constructing an organization that will diversify and expand its efforts. The newspaper's internal operation is being morphed to handle future growth. We want our supporters to think of this metamorphosis as analogous to that of a caterpillar and a butterfly.

Within a short time, the *SQ News* has attracted the attention of major media outlets such as the *LA Times*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *CNN*. In 2014 *SQ News* won a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for "excellence in journalism under extraordinary circumstances."

With assistance from Spurlock and Jen Lyons of Patten University, *SQ News* may be able to reach its goal in 10 years and reaching the goal in 15 years would still be considered successful. Of course, *SQ News*' ability to grow depends foremost on the cooperation from the administration at San Quentin and CDCR Sacramento.

Paul Cobb, publisher and editor of *Post News Group*, an Oakland-based news group, was introduced to *SQ News* staff in 2014 and agreed to support the newspaper development. Cobb has also arranged to publish some of our articles in *Post News Group* papers to expand *SQ News* reader base.

The newspaper's expansion in the seven years since its revival in 2008 has been impressive. It is now read in 21 of the 34 state's prisons and has a goal to give every prisoner in the system access to the *San Quentin News*.

For the *SQ News* to expand its



File photo

Harry Legrand, Vice Chancellor for student affairs, at Berkeley presents William Drummond with the Chancellor's award



Photo by Sam Heames

Felicia Gaston, community organizer and Paul Cobb, *Post News Group* in the *SQ News* office

reader base, we must continue to raise the necessary funds. It is important for all financial supporters, subscribers and readers to understand that the path of success will not come easy.

*SQ News*' supporters past, present and future also should know that this prison newspaper operates without financial support from the state of California.

As one of the only prisoner-run newspapers in the country, if not the world, we strive to be on the leading edge of prison innovation. We want to lead by example. We want for our fellow prisoners what we want for ourselves. That is, the ability to enhance ourselves with knowledge and embrace truth so that we, too, see our future.



File photo

Adviser Jennifer Lyons



File photo

Adviser Jon Spurlock



# Capturing the Stories of 1,000 Jailed Juveniles

## Kid CAT Speaks!

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

An unassuming “gentle giant,” Richard Ross is a photojournalist who spent five years traveling 30 states to interview more than 1,000 incarcerated youths in the U. S. He captured pictures and stories that he has published in a book called “Juvenile In Justice.”

“At the outset of this project I wanted to give a voice to those with the least amount of authority in any U.S. confinement system...These are stories of young lives reduced to a paragraph of information. What they have in common is poverty, violence and a diminished view of the possibilities that the world can offer,” states Ross.

His book provides an intimate portrait of elementary school-aged kids to youths in their teens, all in confinement for juvenile delinquency or

even murder.

More than a focus on crimes that these youths have committed, Ross’ book captures the pure essence of young innocence and vulnerability that only a photograph can show.

Picture an ordinary school kid from your average elementary school. Now imagine that child in a stark white room, with a concrete slab for a bed, and a metal sink and toilet.

Here they describe some of the crimes they committed that led to their confinement:

“I’m from Newburgh. It’s a tough town. I think I was first charged when I was nine years old. I was a robbery lookout. I got caught in a big raid they did in town. I’m still in elementary school,” says L.R., age 11, who is serving time in a Juvenile Treatment Center in Red Hook, New York.

“I have been running away my whole life. My parents divorced when I was four. My

father sexually abused me from age five to nine. My stepmother physically abused me. I was kidnapped by a pimp and prostituted out. I tried to run at one point and was shot in my butt. I was paralyzed for two weeks. I shouldn’t be here, they are not charging me with anything, but they have set bail at \$250,000” – R., age 16, at Multnomah County Detention Facility, Multnomah County, Oregon.

“I’m a sophomore in high school. My father abused me, and he told me he was going to do the same to my little brother and sister. When he told me he was going to hurt them...I couldn’t let that happen. He was asleep, so I took his gun and shot him. I pled guilty to manslaughter. I had just turn 14 when it happened. My brother and sister can’t visit. I miss them a lot. I don’t like showing my emotions. I would rather keep things neutral. If I let my emotions get into it... control can all fall away. Being able to control, this is my real strength.” – Z., age 16, serving time in Juvenile Corrections



Photojournalist Richard Ross

Center, Nampa, Idaho.

Ross explains: “I learned how to speak to children in detention and confinement. I learned to neutralize the authority of my age, height and race by sitting on the floor and allowing the children to have control over the conversation and they always had the option of saying, ‘Don’t want to talk about that...’ Sitting on the floor of a cell and listen-

ing to a kid try to explain why his mother hasn’t visited him in the four years he has been in prison is an odd gift to be given.”

According to the American Correctional Association, it costs, on average, \$88,000 per year to incarcerate a single youth in a juvenile correctional facility. By comparison, a four-year public university can cost less than \$8,000 a year.

## Senate Pushes Bill 124 to Reduce Juvenile Solitary Confinement

By Emily Harris  
Ella Baker Center for  
Human Rights

Legislation that limits the use of solitary confinement at state and county juvenile correctional facilities was passed by the California Senate. It is now before the State Assembly.

Senate Bill 124, authored by Sen. Mark Leno, creates state-wide standards that encourage the use of less damaging and more effective disciplinary actions. The bill is similar to a settlement recently reached between Contra Costa County and disability rights advocates following allegations of solitary confinement abuses of special needs youth in that county’s juvenile hall.

“Solitary confinement is an extraordinarily harmful disciplinary measure that has no rehabilitative purpose whatsoever,” said Sen. Leno, D-San Francisco. “It is inhumane to lock up young people in this way and deprive them of human contact, education, exercise and fresh air. This type of



Senator Mark Leno

isolation is widely condemned and only exacerbates the problems troubled youth face. We must provide them with treatment, not prolonged isolation, if we want them to become future productive members of our communities.”

SB 124 defines solitary confinement and permits its use in juvenile correctional centers only when a person poses an

immediate and substantial risk of harming others or threatening the security of the facility. The bill is co-sponsored by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, California Public Defenders Association, Youth Justice Coalition and Children’s Defense Fund-California. It is also supported by the Alameda and Los Angeles County Boards of Supervisors and a large network of civil rights organizations, health and social workers, churches and legal justice groups.

“The Senate’s passage of SB 124 brings us one step closer to ending the solitary confinement of youth, a damaging practice that has been shown to cause irreparable harm,” said Jennifer Kim, director of programs for the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. “In order to heal, youth need to receive proper treatment and be connected to their families and communities.”

A 2009 national survey connects the use of solitary confinement to suicide. About half of young people in the juvenile

justice system who committed suicide were isolated and alone when they died. In addition, more than 10 percent of young people in juvenile facilities who committed suicide had been in solitary confinement in the past.

“Experts agree that the practice of placing youth in solitary confinement can have lifelong negative psychological consequences because of their unique developmental needs,” said Martin Schwarz, a California Public Defenders Association board member. “With this bill, California joins a growing number of states who have restricted or abolished solitary confinement for children.”

“We applaud members of the Senate for their leadership in voting for SB 124 to protect our incarcerated youth from the trauma of solitary confinement,” said Alex M. Johnson, executive director of the Children’s Defense Fund-California. “SB 124 is a critical step toward ending the punitive incarceration model in juvenile justice facilities across the state.”

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, 19 states ban solitary confinement for punitive reasons. Most recently, New York City banned the use of solitary confinement of youth 21 and younger.

“California uses harsh, and often long-term solitary confinement in both its youth and adult institutions,” said Kim McGill, an organizer with the Youth Justice Coalition who has also experienced solitary confinement. “These practices are outdated and debilitating to a person’s physical, emotional and mental well-being.”

SB 124 is scheduled to be heard in Assembly policy committees this summer.

“While California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) cannot comment on pending legislation, it is incorrect to refer to Security Housing Units (SHU) as solitary,” reports the CDCR press office. “There is no ‘solitary confinement’ in California prisons and the SHU is not solitary confinement. Many inmates in SHU have cellmates.”

## Focus on Arts Boosts Grades and Later Success

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

Students who are trained in the arts perform better in school and enjoy a greater chance of success as adults, a study for the National Endowment for the Arts concludes.

“Students who have arts-rich experiences in school do better across-the-board academically, and they also become more active and engaged citizens, voting, volunteering, and generally participating at higher rates than their peers,” states Rocco Landesman, chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The report presents compara-

ble outcomes among children, teenagers and young adults with either minimal or intensive art involvement.

A key finding of academic achievement for students from low-socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds revealed that those “who have a history of in-depth arts involvement show better academic outcomes than do low-SES youths who have less arts involvement,” states the report.

Further findings show that students who have arts-rich experience have exhibited the following commonalities:

1. Completing a calculus course
2. Achieving a higher G.P.A
3. More likely to complete a

bachelor’s degree

4. More likely to have higher-paying and professionally rewarding career

5. Exhibiting higher levels of volunteering, voting and engagement with local or school politics.

Students who earned few or no art credits exhibited the following as a cohort:

1. They were five times more likely not to have graduated high school than students who completed more art classes.

2. Have lower test scores in science and writing

3. Are less likely to select a major in college that leads to a professional career.

“These findings suggest that

in-school or extracurricular programs offering deep arts involvement may help to narrow the gap in achievement levels among youth of high- versus low-SES,” the report states.

“Even youth from socially and economically advantaged backgrounds may find access to greater civic and social par-

ticipation via deep arts involvement” — all classes benefit, states the NEA.

The study was authored by James S. Catterall, University of California Los Angeles; Susan A. Dumais, Louisiana State University; and Gillian Hampden-Thompson, University of York, U.K.

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group’s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the men and women juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.



# 'Get On The Bus' Offers San Quentin Inmates the Chance to Visit Loved Ones



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Darnell "Moe" Washington's daughter, Destiny Player, came to see him, along with his granddaughter, Khalieah Allen, his mother Bobbie Young, and sister Melinda Lockhart

**By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor**

For Brain Asey, doing time at San Quentin State Prison means being far away from his son and daughter who are living in Southern California.

"It's hard to be a parent behind bars because I'm not there when they need me," he said. "It's frustrating. All I can do is call or write letters."

Asey's son, nephew and mother took advantage of Get on the Bus (GOTB), a nonprofit organization that coordinates with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to bring children to incarcerated parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

This was the fourth year in a row Asey has benefited from the GOTB program.

"I missed seeing my daughter this time," Asey said. "They keep me strong in here. So, I look forward to the visits."

More than half of prisoners who are parents are incarcerated more than 100 miles from their children, and 10 percent live more than 500 miles away, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Maintaining good communications with children and incarcerated parents has even gotten the attention of

the children's television show, *Sesame Street*.

*Tips for Incarcerated Parents*, written and published by *Sesame Street*, gives advice on how to answer difficult questions a child may ask an incarcerated parent, as well as how to connect with their children during visits.

***"It makes me want to support preserving relationships between parents and kids"***

The tips help prisoners deal with questions like: Where are you? When will you be home? Will I get to see you?

There are tips on helping the child feel comfortable during visits, on how to make the most of their visiting time, and how to make good-byes easier.

"Children are paying for a crime that they didn't commit," said Amalia Molina, executive director of Get on the Bus. "When the father goes to prison, it has a ripple effect on the child."

"It is very important to have children connect with their

parents to show them that they are loved," said Molina, who works with the Center for Restorative Justice Works in Los Angeles.

Anna Hamilton, Cathy Kalin, Michelle Tapia, Dana Dart-McLean, Courtney Cayford and Antonio Luevano are GOTB volunteers who catered to the children and their guardians during the bus ride.

"I think it's really wonderful to see families connecting," said Tapia, a school counselor who works with children of incarcerated parents. "I see how challenging it is for the kids," she said. "It makes me want to support preserving relationships between parents and kids."

Darnell "Moe" Washington's daughter, Destiny Player, came to see him, along with his granddaughter, Khalieah Allen, his mother Bobbie Young, and sister Melinda Lockhart.

"I get to spend time with my daughter who's on college break," Washington said. "I only get to see them once a year and that's because of Get on the Bus program. It's a blessing and good program."

"We miss his presence in the family," his sister Melinda said. "He's the glue that keeps us together."

Washington's daughter, Destiny, attends college in New Orleans and majors in psychology. "We have a good bond," she



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Stacey Bullocks and daughter Cirra



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Travis Banks with his daughter Keya Banks and her son Demauri

said. "I learn a lot about what he does in Restorative Justice."

Washington, who has been incarcerated for 18 years, said, "The biggest difference in me from the person I was, is that today is that I am able to forgive through the practices of Restorative Justice."

Visits from family and friends offer a means of establishing, maintaining, or enhancing social support net-

works, according to a study by Minnesota Department of Corrections Research Director, Grant Duwe.

The study finds that visitation can reduce recidivism by maintaining prisoners' social ties with family members, and by helping prisoners develop new bonds with clergy or mentors. In doing so, offenders can sustain or broaden their networks of social support.



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Guy Miles hangs out with his love ones



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Get On The Bus volunteers



# 'Bus Program' Reconnects California's Women Prisoners With Their Children

By Kristina Khokhobashvili  
CDCR Public Information  
Officer

Mother's Day was always especially difficult for Iyasmine Harris. While incarcerated in county jail, she gave birth to her son, Eddie. He went to live with family the day he was born, and, financial and geographical difficulties made visiting nearly impossible when she was sentenced to state prison. But thanks to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Get On The Bus program, Harris was able to hold her son for the first time.

"I'm very grateful for the volunteers who raised money just to get us here today," Harris said, an enthusiastic Eddie bouncing in her arms in the visiting area of Central California Women's Facility. "Because there are other mothers like me who haven't had a chance to have a physical visit with their son."

Get On The Bus is a project of the Center for Restorative Justice Works. Each year, CRJW provides free transportation to state and federal prisons for children to visit their incarcerated parents. Each child is accompanied by a caregiver, and counseling is available, as well. Throughout the day, families participate in fun activities like crafts and board games, with plenty of time set aside for catching up and having heart-to-heart talks.

"These children need to see their mom," said Amalia Molina, Executive Director for Get On The Bus. "It's the right thing to do. They are paying a price for a crime they did not commit."

CDCR strongly supports visitation, as keeping family bonds strong is an important way to break the cycle of incarceration. CCWF Warden Deborah K. Johnson stated, "Each incarcerated mother seeing their children gives them a reason to

stay positive and make healthy choices.

They want to be a role model for their families, especially their children. I think it's a wonderful opportunity. It's great to see the parents spending time with their families."

The week before CCWF's special visiting day, the California Institution for Women hosted 141 children visiting 35 incarcerated mothers. CDCR's third and final female institution, Folsom Women's Facility, will hold a Get on the Bus event July 18. Father's Day events are held in June at several male institutions.

Get On The Bus is 99 percent made possible by volunteers, Molina said. Their efforts go year-round, from fundraising for transportation and food to interviewing families and riding the bus to and from the institutions. Sheila Byrd, Harris' mother, said she was unable to make it to the Get On The Bus pickup location the morning of the event and volunteers quickly made sure she found transportation in time to catch the bus.

"We appreciate it so much," she said. "They are such a big help to us. If you don't have a way, they'll make sure you get a way."

"I'm ecstatic!" beamed Erica Devine as she played games with her sons. "It has been 13 months since I've seen them. I'm overwhelmed."

Devine's mother and sons traveled from Yucca Valley, some 350 miles from CCWF. They were able to catch one of the buses in San Bernardino, at no cost to her or her family.

"I think it's great," said Devine, who will go home soon. "It gives me a chance to reconnect with them and re-bond with them before I go home; it gives me an opportunity to connect with them in a place that I know is safe."



Photo by Eric Owens

Erica Devine greets her sons



Photo by Eric Owens

Woman prisoner happy to spend time with her loved ones



Photo by Eric Owens

Iyasmine Harris colors with her son, Eddie



Photo by Eric Owens

Tanesha Jennings shares a laugh with her son, Kaeden

Father's Day visiting events took place in June at California Men's Colony, San Quentin State Prison, Correctional Training Facility and Salinas Valley State Prison. Additional Get On The Bus events will take place in July at Folsom State Prison, California State Prison-Sacramento and Folsom Women's Facility. For more information, visit [www.getonthebus.us](http://www.getonthebus.us).



# A Familiar Face and a Complex Relationship

## An 'OG's' Perspective

By Larry Stiner Jr.

The face on that man looks very familiar. And so does his uniform: perfectly matching navy-blue shirt and pants accessorized with a black duty belt upon which a nine millimeter handgun is holstered. The shiny oval-shaped badge on his chest identifies him as an officer working for the Los Angeles Police Department.

I've seen that face before but can't quite recall when or where. Had he stopped me in traffic? Had he once confronted a group of friends I happened to be with? Did I see him questioning or arresting someone in my neighborhood? I don't think so. My gut tells me I had a more positive experience in my dealings with this African-American

law enforcer.

Finally, I remember him. He and I had grown up on the same block and had gone to school together many years ago. We had been childhood friends.

Frozen by the surprise of discovering he had gone to work for the Police Department, I simply stare in silence. It is extremely rare for anyone from around my way to walk down that law enforcement path. With a deep-seeded mistrust of the police often handed down from parent to child, negative experiences between the L.A.P.D. and minorities in South Los Angeles only widened the divide.

Now that I know who this man is, my stare intensifies as I try to see down into his soul. He looks away, but

I can't. With so many black bodies dropping from the impact of police bullets around the country, I have a burning desire to know which side of the line he falls on. Do Black lives matter to him? Does he truly believe that two hands up means don't shoot? Having been raised on the same street as I, he is uniquely positioned to see things from both sides. Surely, he hasn't forgotten the constant police harassment we experienced as innocent teenagers. He could not have forgotten how many of our peers had been targeted, framed and jailed by the bad seeds walking among the men in blue.

On the flip side, I am certain he also remembers the deadly gang warfare and heavy drug trafficking that made our environment seem



Photo courtesy of the Stiner family

Larry Stiner Jr.

like the "wild, wild West" and which, in turn, had many in the community feeling the police needed to do more to stop the violence.

Part of me believes his roots had to have instilled in him a longing to change the historically poor relationship between people of color and the

police. I reason he must have become an officer because he wants to do his part to make things fair. Another side of me, however, remains skeptical as my mind plays back the recent images of African-American cops idly standing by or participating in the incidents that led to the deaths of Eric Garner in New York and Freddie Gray in Baltimore.

I can't help but wonder about the true feelings of the police officers in riot gear standing face to face with angry protesters who are overcome with pain, fear and frustration, as they cry for help and demand change. Do any of those officers feel the same pain and frustration? Do any of them really care? The fact that I am even asking myself these things reminds me of how much work we still have to do as a society.

In the end, I walk away without ever saying a word to the officer with the familiar face. He and I both know why.

## Utah Program Lets Women Prisoners Read 'Bedtime Stories' to Their Families

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Women prisoners in Utah are given the opportunity to participate in a "bedtime stories" program as a way to bond with their families, reports Keri Lunt Stevens for the *Associated Press*.

Sponsored by United Way and the Ashton Family Foundation, the program is primarily geared toward incarcerated moms who have young children, writes Stevens in the January article.

"Moms who are in prison still, like any mom, want to have a connection with their child," said Katie Hoshino, senior adviser of community relations, Utah County United Way.

The program was created 10 years ago by Brigham Young University student Brook Plowthow, then a freshman with an idea of a way to serve

the community.

Participating inmates are able to record themselves reading books to the children they love through the program, reported Stevens. From recordings, individual compact discs are made and then sent to each child.

Program participant Sasha Foltz is serving a five-year sentence. "I'm really grateful for this program," Foltz said. "We don't get a lot of contact otherwise."

Stevens noted the program delivers a double impact. The children receive a level of attention that may have been lost, and the mom receives a degree of satisfaction in being able to give affection.

Along with the recorded story, a brief message such as "I love you," or "I miss you," is allowed and often included, according to the article.

Commenting on the situation that incarcerated mothers are

in, Hoshino said, "That bond that is created when you read, your child is missing that when mom is in prison."

One Sunday a month, United Way volunteers, using handheld recorders, sit one to a table with paper and pen nearby capturing the expressions of love delivered by the inmates, Stevens explained.

Sharing her experience with the program, United Way coordinator Stephanie Anderson said, "When you meet the inmates and see them tear up and cry while reading these stories, you see they are just normal people."

The Timpanogos Women's Correctional Facility has hosted the effort. The core idea is to unite inmates with their families. A collection of books that have been pre-screened for the program are available for the readers.

Serving an 18-month sen-

tence at Timpanogos, Rainey Bridges appreciated the opportunity to read to her 4-year-old son, Jaykob. "I miss my little boy," said Bridges. "It makes me feel closer to him."

Mother to son or daughter are not the only relationships to benefit from the program. Some inmates have read to sib-

lings, nieces, nephews and even their dying parents, explains Stevens.

"Yes, they are paying their debts to society, and they should be—but their kids shouldn't be," said Anderson.

Although those with child-related crimes are not eligible for the program, Stevens reports.



## Senators Aim to Revive Shrunken Juvenile Justice Funds

By Anouthinh Pangthong  
Journalism Guild Writer

In the course of a decade, federal funding for juvenile justice declined to about half of what was appropriated when Congress last reauthorized the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) in 2002.

To date, federal spending is about \$251 million. This is down from the \$547 million appropriated at the 2002 reauthorization of the JJDP. Advocates for juvenile justice call for more funding.

Senators Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, and Sheldon Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island, are expected to introduce a bipartisan measure in the near future to reauthorize JJDP.

The "core requirements" of

JJDP are to prevent detention of "status offenders" who come in contact with the juvenile justice system for nonviolent offenses; reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the juvenile justice system; remove young offenders from adult facilities; and prevent contact between adult inmates and incarcerated youths in adult institutions.

The bipartisan measure by Grassley and Whitehouse is expected to close loopholes in JJDP that allow exceptions to detaining of status offenders and to offer states incentives that focus more on education for incarcerated youths than on incarceration of young offenders.

"The budget challenges at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

are compounded by instances of duplication and overlap in numerous grant programs administered by the U.S. Department of Justice," says a spokesman for Grassley. "Senator Grassley is committed to pursuing reform to ensure that the limited grant resources now available to OJJDP will be devoted to the most meritorious initiatives and projects for the nation's at-risk youth."

The steep decline in formula grants, called Title II, diminishes states' incentives to offer alternatives for youth offenders. This could translate to states locking up young offenders because it is easier to do so due to a lack of federal funding.

Marie Williams, executive director of the Washington-based nonprofit Coalition for Juvenile Justice, said in an email, "If one

considers the way the JJDP was conceptualized, the sharp decrease in funding is particularly troubling." Williams continued, "The JJDP's design is such that it not only prescribes core protections, but provides funding to incentivize states' participation in the act, and gives them the resources to do so."

"The significant reduction of those resources over time has had the predictable effect of also diminishing the incentive for some states to participate."

President Barack Obama requested \$339 million for juvenile justice in his 2016 fiscal year budget, an increase of 35 percent. This increase would be earmarked toward \$70 million for the Title II JJDP formula grants; \$42 million will

go toward the JJDP Title V Delinquency Prevention Program; \$10 million targeting the "school-to-prison pipeline"; and \$30 million for a new "Smart on Juvenile Justice Initiative."

Many budget observers doubt Congress will approve the increased funding.

But increasing spending alone wouldn't necessarily improve outcomes for delinquent children said Nate Balis, director of the Juvenile Justice Strategy Group.

"More funding in itself for a juvenile justice system that has typically spent the money in the wrong way, on facilities rather than families, on being punitive rather than being developmental in its approach, is not what the juvenile justice system needs," Balis said.



# Julius Caesar and Macbeth Entertain 600 Guests



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Photo by Leroy Lucas

Julius Caesar played by Azraal Ford was betrayed and killed. Mark Anthony played by Lemar Harrison is lamenting over his death.

Julian Glenn "Luke" Padgett and Jarvis "Lady Jae" Clark captivate the audience portraying Macbeth and his wife

**By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor**

In a week's span, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth* were performed at San Quentin State Prison for audiences that totaled more than 600 guests including community members, prison staff and fellow inmates.

Lesley Currier and Suraya Keating of the Marin Shakespeare Company have been directing plays inside San Quentin for 12 years. They work with the inmates for months, helping them learn to speak and understand the language of Shakespeare, and to examine and portray the motivations of his characters. In doing so, the inmate actors say they learn a great deal about themselves.

"Shakespeare helps me open up to people because I'm a closed person," said inmate Eric Lowery. "It helps relieve racial tensions. It takes my mind off being in prison and it's good to be appreciated by the outside people who come to our performances."

Lowery, 35, who played Young Seward in *Macbeth* and Trebonius in *Julius Caesar*, said this was his sixth and last Shakespearean play. Lowery is preparing to appear before the parole board next year. He's been imprisoned 17 years and at San Quentin for eight years. "Shakespeare has given me the chance to mature emotionally and spiritually," he said.

Azraal Ford played Julius Caesar. Before taking the stage, he said, "I feel excited, ready to awe some people and leave some people to believe it was a great day."

Ford has been incarcerated 17 years and has been at San Quentin for two years. "I've met a lot of people here," he said. "Both insiders and outsiders have helped me pursue a path of success and break out of the bad. It's allowed me to laugh at myself, which is something I've not done in a long time."

*Julius Caesar* began with a dramatic entrance of Roman soldiers proceeding up the center aisle from the rear of the Protestant Chapel, which doubles as a theater.

Upon Caesar's entrance, some inmates seemed amused at seeing inmates they know well in costume as actors. There were murmurs and laughter at some of the Shakespearean lines, but it was clear that the audience was involved in the story.

Many entrances and exits moved the flow of the story along. Whenever Caesar exited, the inmates, mimicking Roman soldiers, raised their arms and hailed him.

Lemar "Maverick" Harrison played Mark Anthony. This was Harrison's third play. He played Gratiano in *The Merchant of Venice* and Fenton in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Harrison said, "I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to live out a dream in pris-

on. I was 19 at the time of the crime that sent me to prison. I go to the board in two years. Since being incarcerated, I've learned how to be myself.

"The plays are full of relatable issues that prisoners in general go through, like racism or love or the lack of it, jealousy, envy and self-doubt," Harrison added.

Harrison said the role of Mark Antony impacted how he matured while incarcerated. "I was Caesar's right hand man. It is a role that made me look into myself and ask myself: 'Am I strong enough to accept another person's burden or troubles?' It made me reevaluate how I look at friendships. It made me realize the importance of a true friend."

Referring to his youth when he began his incarceration, Harrison said, "I was prone to peer pressure. I used to do anything to acquire friends or look good or whatever my peers wanted to do. Now 20 years later, I realize that I can't allow other's ideologies or expectations to dictate who I am.

"I feel obligated to today's youth to not only be an example but to be a promoter of their dreams and aspirations," Harrison said. "That's all I ever wanted as a kid, someone to believe in me, someone to motivate me."

In *Macbeth*, the clear and polished tones of Julian Glenn "Luke" Padgett evoked the in-

ner turmoil of the lead character and his wife, Lady Macbeth, who was portrayed by Jarvis "Lady Jae" Clark.

The audience intently watched their performance as the couple's ambitions led to murder, guilt, regret and catastrophic loss. In eerie scenes, actors playing the crowned ghosts emerged from the audience to torment Macbeth.

Overall, *Macbeth* was a powerful performance with very physical scenes of murder and violence, including a woman being chased down the aisle by an inmate actor. The final battle between Macduff and Macbeth brought a round of applause from the audience as they fought to the death on the stage.

Later, "Lady Jae" explained why she was drawn to acting, "It's to get over my fear of talking in front of people and release pent-up frustration. When you're on stage, you're the focal point. As a transgender, we have to be comfortable in our skin, because people stare at us 24/7. Being on the stage pushes me out of my comfort zone. When it comes to being the center of attention, it forces me to be comfortable with myself."

Currier and Keating "had faith in me," she added. "They told me that I could do it. Their encouragement gave me faith. They are my Shakespearean goddesses."

Padgett, who has played the lead in three Shakespeare

plays in San Quentin, declared, "Shakespeare was the James Brown, the Marvin Gaye, and Janis Joplin of his time. He speaks to everyone who's going through this human process. He questions politics, religion, cross-dressing, interracial relationships, homosexuality, and the empowerment of women. I think he even questions the meaning of life itself."

Referring to his role as Macbeth, Padgett said, "This role was very challenging to me. Macbeth forced me to go back to places and think about murdering another human being; a man who was deeply loved and respected in his community, dearly loved by his family and friends. So, I was being truthful with myself and I opened up universes where I had locked away the thoughts and the emotions and feelings of murdering someone — of looking at my inhumanity."

"So inspiring," said Londoner Ruth Moran, wiping tears from her eyes. "It was so moving. It's the first time I have been in San Quentin."

"It was wonderful. I am always impressed with how much the men give of themselves," said Victims Offender Education Group facilitator Karena Montag.

Kate Brickley, from Pennsylvania, said, "It completely allowed me to lean forward and connect with the story and made me leave feeling like a braver person."



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Ronell M. Draper plays the second spirit prophesying Macbeth's future



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Julius Caesar wishes the cast good luck before their performance



# Prison University Project Honors 9 Graduates for Their Accomplishments

Continued from Page 1

by and slid booklets in under my cell door. I did the work until I graduated from high school."

"After turning 17, Vanh said he was transferred to state prison. "Then I had to focus on survival."

"When my cellie (Phooun You, who is also graduating today) asked me for help with his college homework, I started thinking differently about college," Vanh said.

Vanh enrolled into PUP in 2010.

"I began getting confidence when I completed a research course and a previous teacher complimented me on how much my writing improved," Vanh said.

Addressing his family, Vanh said, "I want you to know that my incarceration is not your fault," which brought tears to many of the men and women in attendance.

"I would have never thought he would get a chance to get a college degree," said Vanh's



Jerome Boone



James "JC" Cavitt



Carlos Flores



Tony Manning



Carl Sampson



S. Tran



Keung Vanh



Van Wilson



Phooun You

brother, Keo. **Vanh's Cellie Graduated Too!**

Phooun You's mother, father, brother and three sisters traveled for nine hours to attend the graduation. You hadn't seen his parents for more than 20 years.

"With each class that I completed, new difficulties and struggles followed," You wrote in the graduation program.

"Nevertheless, six years later, in my cap and gown, Mom and Dad, you're still by my side. I can

finally show you how much you are appreciated."

"He changed for better, because of the school program," said You's brother, James. "Hopefully he'll be able to get out soon. I would like him to reach out to the victims' family and ask for forgiveness."

**San Quentin Prison University Project Alumni Attend the Graduation:**

Former San Quentin prisoner and keynote speaker Sam Vaughn is employed in Richmond.

"I work for a city government. I'm a government man," Vaughn said, bringing a round of laughter in the audience. "Now, I challenge that same government."

"I work with people who commit gun violence," Vaughn said. "We engage these young men and build a relationship with them. We challenge them to do something different in their lives and to get an education, driver's license, or anything to change the way they were

living. We help them through a process where guns become irrelevant."

Vaughn said that educating incarcerated people is "very controversial."

"There's people on the streets, working two jobs and can't send their children to college. But you guys are committing crime and your reward is to go to college. Who do you want getting out of prison?"

Vaughn answered those questions by saying, "You're taught critical thinking skills. You are taught how to adapt to society."

He told the graduating inmates that they are needed in the community for the "plethora of knowledge in here. We got to go out there and stop the terrorism that's happening in the community."

"Patten University gave you the opportunity," Vaughn said. "Don't let what society tells you put a ceiling on what you can do."

Curtis Penn was paroled in 2013 under Proposition 36.

"The biggest challenge I had after getting out was being patient and let things happen on its own course," Penn said. "I had to humble myself and apply for social services."

Penn is the recipient of a Willie Brown Fellowship and works with San Francisco Reentry. He has also received a John Erwin Award with Project Rebound in order to help ex-offenders pursue college.

Penn is active in the community. He has served on a sentencing commission in San Francisco. He also works with environmental organizations that teach participants sustainable living.



Jody Lewen and Keung Vanh

"You got to have a plan of action," Penn said, regarding what to do before getting out of prison.

**Other Graduates:**

Jerome Boone: "My English classes taught me to structure and articulate my thoughts and emotions; math showed me that problem solving also builds confidence; Philosophy and Ethics revealed that not taking a stance is in fact taking a stance. I even found some spirituality, not in

Comparative Religion, but in Biology w/lab. In a way, PUP introduced me to myself."

James "JC" Cavitt: "Receiving my college degree gives me a strong foundation to stand on so I can say, 'No more excuses.' Poor living conditions, scarce resources, lockdowns, or prison bars should not be used as a reason not to pursue higher education."

Carlos Flores: "What has encouraged me to continue in



Dominique Davies (grand-daughter), Carl Sampson and Danetta Davies (daughter)



Carlos Flores tells wife Terri (front right) and Julia about how he earned a degree

Spoken Word performed by James "JC" Cavitt, "Freedom. We're all serving time. We're just in different places. If we want freedom we have to think differently."

JulianGlenn "Luke" Padgett, Cavitt, Antwan "Banks" Williams, Kevin Carr and Anouthinh Pangthong performed a choreographed dance, called *Stomp It Up*, and received a standing ovation.

the program is the systematic knowledge and positive daily activity it brings to my life. The benefits have been an ability to make my family proud, and I've gained greater personal insight into who I am and the world I live in."

Tony Manning: "I may once more bring that joyful pride back into my family, as they read and see pictures of me receiving my diploma on the stage."

Carl Sampson: "I realized... that being at retiring age did not mean that I was too old to learn. The saying, 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks' is not true. It's a lie."

Sa Tran: "Mom, I truly am sorry for all the pain I've caused you, so THIS is for you."

Van Wilson: "I am most grateful to the outside men and women who have helped me and made it possible for me to achieve my Associate of Arts degree."

**The Entertainment:** *Contagious* performed *Coming Home*: its lyrics read: *I've been gone so long, I'm coming home again.* David Jassy, James Benson, Paul Comaux, Darryl Farris, John Holiday, Lee Jasparr, Charles King and Kevin D. Sawyer.

Spoken Word performed by James "JC" Cavitt, "Freedom. We're all serving time. We're just in different places. If we want freedom we have to think differently."

JulianGlenn "Luke" Padgett, Cavitt, Antwan "Banks" Williams, Kevin Carr and Anouthinh Pangthong performed a choreographed dance, called *Stomp It Up*, and received a standing ovation.

"This is a very important community to me," said Kara Uriom, PUP program director. "I love you all in a very *not* over-familiar way," which brought laughs from the audience.

**Prison University Project's Mission:**

To provide excellent higher education program to people incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison and throughout the California State Prison system; to create a replicable model for such programs; and to stimulate public awareness and meaningful dialogue about higher education and criminal justice in California. We advocate for higher education programs for individuals incarcerated throughout the State of California and United States, and we strive to promote public support for prison education, training, and recovery programs.

Patten University President Thomas Stewart, Ph.D., told the audience that he wrote his dissertation 20 years ago about the evolution of prisons.

Keynote speaker Sam Vaughn

Tony Manning proudly shows his diploma



Keung Vanh hugs his mom after giving the valedictorian speech

"In a democracy, it says that education should be available to everyone," Stewart said. "Jody Lewen, (Executive Director of PUP) is making that possible." Stewart reminded the graduates to have faith and to be

persistent in their educational pursuit. "Your faith and persistence is why we're here today to celebrate success."

*San Quentin News Advisor Joan Lister contributed to this article.*



Keynote speaker Sam Vaughn

Tony Manning proudly shows his diploma

Keung Vanh reunites with mom, Mony Yai and dad, Ket You after twenty years



Keung Vanh reunites with mom, Mony Yai and dad, Ket You after twenty years



Patten University President Thomas addresses the graduates: 'Your faith and persistence is why we're here today to celebrate success'



Keung Vanh hugs his mom after giving the valedictorian speech



James "JC" Cavitt with wife Char Cavitt (left), mom Gloria McPeters and sister Tina Cherry



S. Tran: 'To be able to achieve this accomplishment, it was not just a dream come true, it was worth every day of the 6 years that it took me'



Auntie Yvonne, Jerome Boone, son Nathaniel and mom Britt



Prison University Project staff and graduates smile for the camera



# Arts & Entertainment

## Snippets

Luck led Michael Spark to find a copy of the Declaration of Independence at a thrift store for \$2.48 plus tax. It was valued and sold at an auction for \$477,650.

In Paris Hotel Las Vegas there is a duplicate of an Arc of Triumph to memorializing the bravery of Romanian soldiers who fought in WWI.

Both Japan and Russia strapped bombs to dogs to attack enemy vehicles. Once a dog arrives at its designation a switch is triggered and detonated to destroy the bottom of vehicles.

Emerged as the only person who untied the Gordian Knot was Alexander the Great. In 333 B.C.E. King Midas had tied the knot claiming that whoever unties the knot will rule all of Asia.

Randolph B. Marcy wrote a handbook for Overland Expeditions, a survivor guide to travel the western frontier. He published the book in 1859, and had basic survival techniques like how to treat snake bites and how to communicate with Native Americans.

Anglo-Saxon England people were defended by King Alfred the Great from the attacks from the Vikings. Alfred the Great was known for the rebirth of religion.

Two hundred treaties were written by Aristotle in the course of his life. However, only 31 exist today.

English, and Afrikan are languages that Dutch settlers brought to Africa. There are 11 official native languages in Africa.



Trenise Ferreira in front of Chichén Itzá, Mexico



Will Coleman, of Palestine, Texas, seen reading a copy of the SQ News in front of the very first Wal-Mart store located on the town square in Bentonville, Arkansas

*"Life gives all men everything, but most men do not know this."  
-Gorge Luis Borges*

## Sudoku Corner

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

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

## Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

## Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!

How is this possible? 16? 2? 3? 1= 6

Rules:

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

All correct submissions will be place in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.

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

### Last Month's Trivia Answer:

305 Dollars. 3 of each denomination and one more 50 dollar bill.

The winner of last month's puzzle is: Brian Johnsen. Congratulations to the following contestants who also got the puzzle right: E. Vick & Anthony Boladeres. Thank you for playing!

The prize winner will receive four Granola Bars. Prizes will only be offered to inmates who are allowed to receive the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.



Featured Photo by P. Jo



# Kid CAT Hosts Amala's All-Day Walk for Fund Raising

**By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor**

Nearly two dozen volunteers from the Amala Foundation ventured inside San Quentin on May 31 for an all-day walk, sponsored by Kid CAT, that raised nearly \$1,000 from inmate donations.

Amala Foundation is a youth empowerment organization founded by Vanessa Stone. Amala Foundation holds youth summits around the world designed to help youngsters develop communication and community-building skills.

A summit was held in Foresthill June 15 to 20. One is scheduled in Austin, Tex., Aug. 10 to 16 and one in Africa, Meru Kenya, Dec. 29 to Jan. 5 of next year.

"Many of the inmates make as little as 24 cents an hour," said inmate Stephen Pascasio, one of the originators of the fundraiser. "So, a thousand dollars is a lot to us."

"This is a day to restore our humanity," Stone told inmates. "Everyone needs a day like this. Do not underestimate that every step you take gives the youth the opportunity to heal."

Various religious organizations gave prayers prior to the walk, including the Jewish and Islamic communities, Native Americans and, for the first time at this event, the Protestant and Catholic prayer was performed together.

After the prayers, several children took to the stage to tell stories of their struggle to overcome adversities while growing up. Many concluded by pointing out how coming inside San Quentin and sharing stories brought them a feeling of connection with the inmates they meet.

The first lap on the prison's Lower Yard was led by Stone and walked in silence. Among the walkers were nearly 250 community volunteers, children from the Amala Foundation and inmates.

One walker, Evelyn Apoko, had been abducted and held captive and survived a bombing raid in war-torn Uganda. Apoko eventually made her way to the

United States where she now travels and speaks at schools as a board member of Amala Foundation.

"I'm so honored that you guys gave me the motivation to believe in myself," Apoko told the crowd. "I witnessed the worst in humanity. Amala Foundation helped me find my voice and see peace and forgiveness. All of you, my brothers, you are helping children in the world who are suffering. Because of you, you allow me to touch many children who are suffering."

While the walk went on, Amala Foundation volunteers, along with inmates, took to the stage for inspirational speeches and music.

As Texan Cranston "Breez" Smith and inmate Antwan "Banks" Williams performed *Heart of a Champion*, a crowd gathered around the stage.

"This is the happiest day of my life," Breez told the walkers. "I look forward to this day 364 days out of the year."

"I been knocked down but not defeated," went the lyrics of *Heart of a Champion*. "You can never count out the heart of a champion."

During the performance, inmate Robert "Belize" Villafranco entertained the crowd with dance.

Gino Sevacos, Dwight Krizman and Darryl Farris performed a song with one of the Amala Foundation volunteers. "I feel like I'm at a family reunion," the volunteer said.

"I do a lot of work with Amala, but this is my favorite because it's shaping my place in this world, Amala volunteer Nanny said. "I'm so inspired by coming in here. I'm so grateful for you guys helping me shine. There have been so many impacts because of it. One of my biggest prayers is to find a way to support men to cry, to have emotions, to be liberated."

Inmate John Windham, whose son went to a summit sponsored by Amala last year, said the experience was transforming for his son. "After my son saw that his problems weren't as big as other kids', it changed him," Windham said.

The walk concluded with



Cranston "Breez" Smith and inmate Antwan "Banks" Williams perform for a live audience



Amala participants and volunteers form a traditional circle to end the event

more than 300 men and women forming a circle on the Lower Yard.

"If we can circle up in San Quentin, we can circle everywhere," Stone said. "This is a reflection of your life. You have been part of a movement that goes beyond your identity. Today you have affirmed your existence. You have aligned with God and grace and humility. This is time to let yourself be seen in the work that you are doing. One village. No separation. There are no walls." Before

breaking the circle, Stone asked all the participants to chant: "Love, Respect, Honesty, Community, one Village."

"I'm so happy because I feel like I've seen my humanity reflected in so many other people," said Amala Foundation volunteer Savannah. "I'm reminded that there aren't any barriers between my heart and others."

"Today you guys have provided us a way to find power and meaning in our lives," Stone said. "You guys have provided

something for us and for people you'll never see. Without a doubt, this circle is tenfold out there."

*God Bless the Day You Were Born* was sung as Villafranco danced on his birthday. Next year he goes before the parole board.

"Everything I looked for in life, I've found here," Villafranco said. "Life is what you make it. If I'm living doing God's work, it doesn't matter where I am. My life is about service, about giving smiles and getting them back."



Amala's 'One Village' members came to speak on their experience as survivors



# Prisoners Reminiscence About Fourth of July

## Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of July is the fourth of seven months with 31 days. A full moon is expected on Thursday, July 2, and again on Friday, July 31.

On Saturday, July 4, the United States celebrates its independence.

According to the World Almanac, July is Cell Phone Courtesy Month, National Hot Dog Month and Women's Motorcycle Month.

There are two astrological signs in July: Cancer, the sign of the Crab (June 22 to July 22) and Leo, the sign of the Lion (July 23 to August 22). The birthstone for the month of July is the ruby.

One of the most widely celebrated days during summer is Independence Day. When was the best Fourth of July for the men on the mainline? Asked On The Line wanted men in blue to take a walk down memory lane and describe what they liked most about this national holiday.

Michael Thompson's best Fourth of July was in 1984. "The Summer Olympics was in L.A. so it was an exciting year full of international people. I was 15 years old, without a care in the world, and I was loving life!"

Carlos Flores said, "I was 3 years old. My older brother was at the Boy Scouts Fireworks Booth and he was scaring me with a 'Simon Says' dummy.

On that same day, we also found our lost dog, Bridgett."

Hieu Nguyen: "I came from a third-world country. July 4 is not really something that I celebrate much. When I think about the month of July, it brings me sadness because a life was lost because of me."

Kamsan Suon: "I was 8 years old and had never seen anything so spectacular. Fireworks made me feel excited to live in a free world."

Duke Harris was 10 years old. "It was my first experience at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. I remember eating barbecued ribs, links, and chicken along with cotton candy. I got on all of the rides. It was my best Fourth of July."

Al-Amin McAdoo said that his best Fourth of July moment was when he was 19 years old. "I was watching my 11-month-old daughter get extremely excited from seeing her first fireworks."



Kamsan Soun



Alex Ruiz

Photo by Sam Hearnes

Photo by Kara Ulfon

Philip Seng: "1989 was the best, because it was the last time I was with my family. I was 21 years old and I was around my whole family and I was free."

Alex Ruiz: "Every Fourth of July is great for me because it is my mom's birthday! I also have a couple of cousins who were born on July 4, so I will forever enjoy this day."

Aaron Dufour remembers a special Fourth of July. "On July 4, 2011, it was the night before

my second daughter was born."

Jesus Flores: "My children and my nieces and nephews were all born here and so I like the Fourth of July because they have fun watching the fireworks and the parades."

Forrest Jones: "I remember at the age of 16, me and my family went to Hume Lake on the Fourth of July. We sat around the fire and watched the fireworks show—seeing the fireworks reflect off the water."

## Feelings of 'Hate, Resentment, and Bitterness' in "B" Section

### Back in the Day



Photo courtesy of Leslie Lakes

A prisoner reflects on his life 'a rebel and an outlaw' inside a cell

Researched By A. Kevin  
Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

The following is reprinted from the *San Quentin News*, July 23, 1971. "Bastille by the Bay," by J. Pence Wagner.

The crash of the porcelain wash basin reverberates throughout the tiers and the yells and screams deafen a man. A few minutes ago the guards led a youngster by with the blood dripping from his wrists; a guy on the next tier up has his bunk off the wall and is wearing himself out by crashing it into the door; the guy two cells down has just thrown his fluorescent light tube out onto the tier; this is "B" Section, San Quentin Prison on a rather normal evening.

I had the acute displeasure of spending five days there among the delinquent segment of our population, or at least that's what they're supposed to be. I've been in a few county jails, and a few "joints" in my day, but this one has to take the prize of being "the end of the road."

If you like your mail late, your meals cold, and the medical officer making his walk through every morning; if you like the solitude of madness; if you like the filth and noise, constant, endless noise; if you really want to see for yourself man's inhumanity to man, then spend a few days in "B" Section!

To fill you in on my absence, and to squash any rumors that might have sprung up, I was in "B" Section (suspected) of edit-

ing an underground newspaper. I didn't, and am back at my desk, much wiser, and a little more aware of what's going on around me.

Last week Phil Clark wrote about men in blue walking in circles. As I read his words, I thought about the men who walk the circle of a cell, and who for reasons of his own choice to "do their own thing" no matter what the consequences. The men whose lives revolve around a core of hate, resentment, and bitterness.

I wonder how you reach a man who has made a wall of hate his defense to the world? I wonder how you tell a man who is locked in a cell 24 hours a day, and make him realize the door will open to him one day, and he'll be a part of society again? How do you convince a man, that no matter what he's done, there is something for him someplace in the world? How do you convince a man that even though he is locked away from life, the sun, and even the sound of laughter, real laughter, that there is a place in the world for him?

How can you take a man who has spent a lifetime being a rebel, an outlaw, and teach him to adjust to society's way of thinking? Do you do it by locking him away from the main population of one of the reputed heavier prisons in the system? I think there has to be an answer someplace, and the answer will come from the men themselves. I didn't like it one bit in that place over there, and there are those of you reading this who've been there that will agree with me. It's beyond me to think of an answer, but there must be some solution.

The experience was very much like that of being in the county jail. Most guys when they go to jail aren't prepared for it. No lawyer. No bail money. No way of knowing what's going to happen next. "B" Section is like that. Or at least it was like that to me. I sat there under investigation for a charge that could have very well been true. There was a justification on the part of

staff because I am a writer, and I do know a little bit about the working end of a newspaper, and I know a little bit about editing and layout work.

I asserted my innocence, and after a complete investigation I was freed. But the fact remains that it happened. It could happen to any of us at any time. I think we have to be prepared to meet these "crises" now, because from experience they are bound to happen from time to time in the free world.

One thing I've learned from it all: if you're telling the truth, and you're right, no matter what happens to you, you're bound to

come out of it all right. I honestly believe that, even though my faith was a bit shaken up for a while.

I hope I never have to go back to "B" Section again for any reason, and I hope some day there will be no more "B" Sections. But I think it's up to us, the men in blue, to find an alternative to these places. Until we do, they will exist, and men will continue to vent their frustrations, their anger, their fruitility, and their hopelessness against the walls, the basins, windows, light bulbs, and their own bodies.

Peace!

### Chained Voices Art Gallery Show

See drawings, paintings, original poetry and lyrics, sculpture, and other creative art pieces created by artist who were arrested as juveniles and are now incarcerated in juvenile and adult facilities in Colorado.

Art of Life Gallery  
200 Santa Fe Dr., Denver, CO 80223  
Friday July 17th 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
Saturday July 18th 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

"Chained Voices" is a collaborative effort on behalf of incarcerated juveniles, the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center (CJDC) (a Denver based nonprofit), and Denver based Forensic Social Workers.

This two-day Art Show is a fundraiser to benefit incarcerated youth and to help inform the public about the plight of juveniles incarcerated in the criminal and juvenile justice system. Submissions are accepted from any person currently incarcerated at a juvenile detention facility or adult DOC facility for a crime committed as a juvenile.

All submissions will be sold to attempt to pay for a specific need of the incarcerated artist. The "Chained Voices" committee will provide the requested item/need directly to the artist. All of the money collected for each art piece will be put toward this need; none of the funds will be kept by the committee. For more information contact CJDC at 303-882-6620 or visit [www.cjdc.org](http://www.cjdc.org).



Drawing Time...  
the freedom to create

We invite you to participate in the 9th art show by the Partnership for Re-Entry Program (PREP). Please spread the word and get your artist friends involved! We welcome art in any size and all media. Art lovers enjoy famous portraits, nature, animals, and landscapes just to name a few. Poetry, beadwork, yard work, sculptures, etc. are welcome.

PREP ART SHOW 2015  
October 10, 2015  
Home boy Industries, Los Angeles, CA

Because of our faith perspective, we want to stay away from gang, sex or violent pieces. Please do not write notes or letters on your artwork. Proceeds will help PREP continue to serve parolees through counseling, education housing referrals in efforts to combat the high recidivism rate.

Artwork submission is ongoing and the deadline is Sept. 20, 2015. Please include a statement about your work, title and a brief biography. If you have difficulty shipping the art, please let us know and we can work with the chaplains. Please note artwork cannot be returned. Please send your artwork to:

PREP  
P.O. Box 77850  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

PREP Contact: Sister Mary Sean Hodges  
Office (323) 299-9547  
Cell (323) 371-0757

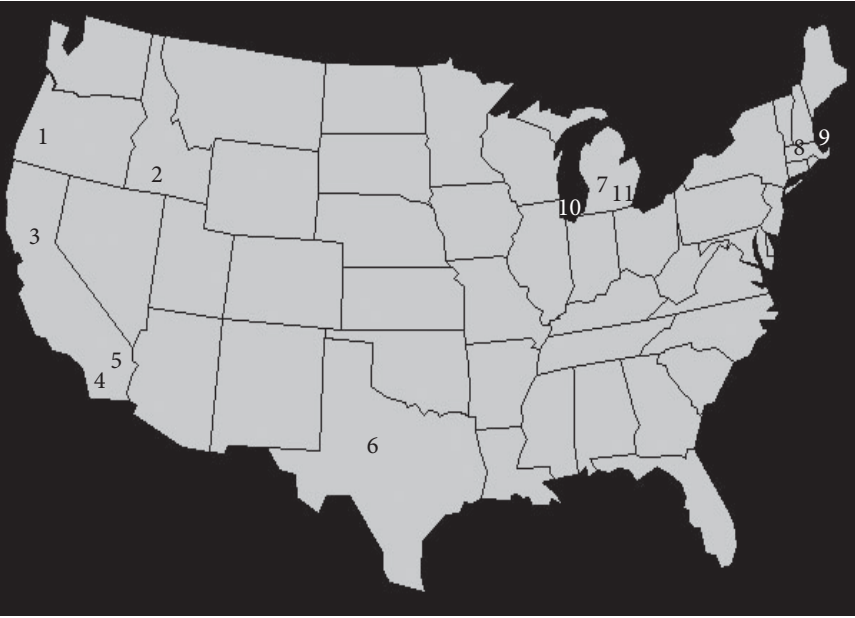


### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

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



# News Briefs



**1. Roseburg, Ore.** — Jesse Stuart Fanus has been sentenced to life in prison without parole for a 1998 murder that once had him on Death Row. The death sentence was overturned on appeal in 2012 and a retrial led to life imprisonment, the Roseburg News-Review reported.

**2. Jerome, Idaho** — Jaimi Charboneau has been released on a \$20,000 bond pending a ruling by the Idaho Supreme Court on an appeal of his conviction for killing his ex-wife more than 30 years ago. KTVB-TV reported Fifth District Judge Robert J. Elgee vacated Charboneau's conviction and sentence after determining the state had hidden significant evidence. Charboneau was sentenced to death but was later resented to life in prison. He says the shooting was in self-defense.

**3. Folsom** — Folsom State Prison Warden Ron Rackley recently presented a check to Wind Youth Services for more than \$10,000. Inmates from the Folsom State Prison's Men's Advisory Council held an annual food sale fundraiser. This year they raised \$10,183.88 and 100 percent of the money raised was donated to the Wind Youth Services of Sacramento.

**4. San Diego** — A federal judge has tossed out a postcard-only rule for San Diego County jail inmates. U-T San Diego reported the judge ruled that a jail policy barring personal mail in envelopes is unconstitutional. He issued a preliminary injunction ordering the policy suspended

by May 21. The Sheriff's Department adopted the policy three years ago to reduce the amount of contraband being smuggled into the jail.

**5. Calipatria** — Inmates at Calipatria State Prison have donated close to \$24,000 to local community groups, thanks to profits from food sales. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous sponsored the food sales. The money will go to assist cancer victims, crime victims and educational programs.

**6. Dilley, Texas** — An estimat-

ed 500 protesters demonstrated May 2 at a family detention center urging the federal government to "shut it down," The Texas Tribune reported. The center was built in 2014 to house up to 2,400 undocumented women and children who are seeking asylum.

**7. Lansing, Mich.** — The Michigan House voted 57-53 to approve a bill to allow private prison operator GEO Group to reopen a former youth prison as a maximum-security prison. Six Republicans joined all 47 Democrats in voting against the plan.

Florida-based GEO Group has been trying to reopen its 1,740-bed North Lake Correctional Facility since 2005, when the state of Michigan ended its contract with the company to house juvenile offenders at the facility. In 2011, GEO Group had a contract to house California prisoners that fizzled, the Detroit News reported.

**8. Salem, Mass.** — Angel Echavarría has been released after spending 21 years behind bars for the 1994 shooting death of Daniel Rodriguez, The Associ-

ated Press reports. Echavarría said he did not commit the murder. Superior Court Judge David Lowy ordered the sentence vacated after ruling the prosecution's case was flawed. Prosecutors are reviewing the case to decide whether to drop charges or prepare new charges against Echavarría.

**9. Boston** — The Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled that defendants can seek new trials if their convictions were based on mishandled drug samples, the New York Times reported. State chemist Annie Dookhan was responsible for tainted evidence in tens of thousands of criminal cases, officials said.

**10. Chicago** — Jarrett Adams has graduated from law school more than seven years after he was exonerated for a rape conviction that led to a 28-year prison sentence. He graduated from Loyola University with his law degree. He said he hopes to help others who are in similar situations, WBBM-TV reported.

**11. Detroit** — Gov. Rick Snyder says he wants to overhaul Michigan's criminal justice system to provide prison inmates with skills assessments and job training before they are released, The Associated Press reports. He made the comments in a speech at Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, a nonprofit career and job training organization. "This is about smart justice," Snyder said. "If someone has committed a crime, they should be punished. Helping them be successful coming out is a win for all of us."

## 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](http://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 forty dollars subscription will get you 12 issues, \$1.61 in stamps will get you one issue. The stamps should be sent to *SQ News* 1 Main street, San Quentin, CA. 94974. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed.

### FOUNDATIONS

Amity Foundation, The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Haas Business School, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, Francis Greenberger Charitable Trust, RM Low Foundation, The Real Cost of Prisons and RESIST

### INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins\*, Lois Ahrens, Nassim Alisobhani, Alliance for Change, Betty Ford and Joellen Anderson, Corey Anderson, Faye Antolin, Jennifer Armstrong, Daniel Barton\*/Attorney at Law, Christopher B., Walter Baranger, Stella Batzel, Peter Bentley\*, Skip Bergeron, Luci Berkowitz\*, Michael Bien, Iris Biblowitz\*, Jeremy Blank, Ann Boone, Anne Bozack, Susan Breiding, Esta Brimage, Deborah Brown\*, PL Brown, Christopher Buchen, Bruce and Maris Budner, Terry Butler, California Prison Industry Authority, Robert Canning, Julia Carney, Kasi Chakravartula\*, Sua Shu-Kwan Chan, Celia Chazelle, Roze Albina Chez, Abby Chin, Yevgenya Chityan, Publisher Paul Cobb, Mac Coffey, Ann Colburn\*, Marshall Cook\*, Kathleen Correll, Joseph Coyle, Kathryn Craft, John Creager, Margaret Crimmins, Simone Gabrielle Crowe\*, Colorado CURE, Angela Laura Curtis, Kevin Danaher, Patricia Dark, Leigh Davenport, Marcus Davies, Christine Dell, Claire Elizabeth DeSophia\*, Annie De Williams, Teresa Dillinger, Lisa Doering, Mark Drevno, Alison Dykstra, Braden Weeks Earp, Barry Eisenberg, Daniel Elber\*, D. Elser, Tamar Enoch\*, William and Carolyn Epling\*, George Estrada, Diana Esparza\*, David Feld, Judy Fireman, Patricia Ann Foley, Jasper Frank, Sue Frantz, Adriane Fresh, Amy Friedman, James Friedman, Michael Furst, Sheila Glover, God B. God II, Jordan Good, Dianna Goodwin, Judith Goldman\*, Craig Gore, Sara Jones, Barbara Green, Joyce Griffin, Suzanne Gruber, Fred Gurtman, Dona Hagedorn\*, William Hagler, Jordana Hall, Jun Hamamoto, Ted Hamm, Danielle Harris, Barbara Hernandez, Mary Hiester, Tasha Hill, Carolina Holt, Douglas Horngrad, Kathryn Howell, Harriet Iwamoto, Joann Jackson, Kathleen Jackson\*, Anne Janks, Jeremy Johnson, Monica Johnson, Thea Johnson, Stephanie Jones, Seema Kacker, Kaitlin Kall, Norma Kanter, Susanne Karch\*, Derek Karr\*, Helen Kelly, Chad Kempel, Anthony Kenrick\*, Derek Kerr, Richard Keyes, Courtney Khademi, Nancy King, Matt Klopp, Dwane Kratchovil, Elise Kroeber\*, Will Kruisbrink, Toni Landis, Monica Lee-Griffith, Angelique Groh, Elsa Legesse\*, Michael Leigh, Michele Lomelino, Jennifer Lyons, Andrew MacKay, Melvin and Cherly Macomber, Robin Madrid, Linda Mafrice\*, Rosemary Malvey\*, Carleen Mandolfo, Mary McAndrew, Bonnie McAlpin, Edwin McCauley, Tracy McIntosh, David McConnell, Lindsay McCulley, June McKay\*, Wistar McLaren, Ray Menaster, Stephan Metraux, Phyllis Mileo, Kristian Mjaland, Michael Morse, Kelly Mortensen\*, Michele and Mrac Muller, Robin Myers-Li\*, Marc Nadelman, Melanie Nasson-Kurgpold, John Nelson, Thomas Nolan\*/Attorney at Law, Virginia Norris, Hien Nguyen, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, Jeffrey O'Donnell, Mark Olmsted, Michael Ogul, Caitlin O'Neil, Irami Osei-Frimpong, David Pacini, Pat Palmer, Jay Parafina, Sarah Paris, V.A. Perella, J.S. Perrella\*, Paul Peterzell, John Porter, Quilley Powers\*, Prison Yoga Project, Martin Ratner\*, Michel Ravnitsky, Stephen Reitz\*, Galen Van Rensselaer, Marguerite Rigoglioso, Maria Rivero, Cheryl Roberts, James Robertson\*, Arthur and Elizabeth Rogers, Diane Rosenberger, Fred Rosenblum\*, Jennifer Rundall, Michael Munroe Saltzman, Teresa Samuelson, Law Office of David Scarsons, J.B. Scherrer, Lucia Scott\*, Jeff Seddon, Elizabeth Semel, Lillian Sharif, Jonathan Simon\*, Ameeta Singh, Edward Skinner, Bob Slakey, Madeleine Sloane, Richard Spencer, David Spilker\*, Megan Stubbendeck, Ed Swaitlo, Andrea Swanson, Rebecca Swinney, Nicholas Talarico, Jim Thompson, Bill Twist, Amanda Ufheil-Somers, Rebecca Valdivia, Stephanie Vardavas, Lori Vasick\*, Forrest Moss Vreeland, Peter Wagner, Robert and Susan Weisberg, Carla White, Chris Wilson\*, Lois Wu\*, Forrest Woolman, Elizabeth Zeitler, Sharran Zeleke, Robert and Elizabeth Zwicky.

\*Have made more than one donation



# Botched Lethal Injection Executions Spark National Debate on Death Penalty

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Death penalty states had great difficulty obtaining the combination of drugs needed to execute inmates in 2014. "This past year, the number of inmates executed in America was the lowest in two decades at 35," according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Part of the reason is that many pharmaceutical companies refuse to associate their drugs with killing people.

In a 2014 NPR story, veteran reporter Michael Kiefer of the *Arizona Republic* observed an execution that did not go well. The execution of double murderer Joseph Wood by the Arizona Department of Corrections was another botched attempt of "using a different drug formula for the first time."

What Kiefer and other witnesses saw was an execution that appeared to go smoothly, as they watched "the catheters being inserted," Kiefer said. Wood closed his eyes, put his head back and waited for what would normally take five to 10 minutes for a condemned man to die.

However, this was not a typi-



Michael Kiefer

cal execution. According to Kiefer, "It looked like executions I'd seen before using thiopental and pentobarbital."

But at the six-minute mark something unusual happened. Suddenly, Wood opened his mouth.

"His mouth sort of made this funny round shape, and you could see this expulsion of air, and we all jumped. This was something different," Kiefer said.

Wood began fighting for his life, taking large intermittent breathes. Then there was another and then another, and then it just kept going. Kiefer said, "I started putting little hash marks on my pad, my notepad, to see how many times he did this - 640 times."

The eyewitnesses looked at each other. Kiefer could see the panic on the faces of the prison personnel. No one spoke a word. Kiefer turned to the reporter sitting next to him and said, "I don't think he's going to die." According to the story, he wondered if Wood was going to "open his eyes again."

The executioner eventually came out, turned on the death chamber microphone and tried to reassure everyone that Wood was asleep, and it was OK. However, Kiefer tells a different story.

The sounds emanating from Wood were suddenly audible from behind the executioner's voice. These noises added another layer of distress on everyone who was a witness. Nearly two hours later, after administering 15 doses of "50 milligrams of midazolam, a sedative, and 50 milligrams of hydromorphone,

a narcotic," Wood died, Kiefer noted.

"A mess is good way to put it," says Maurie Levin, a capital defense attorney in Texas who has been doing most of the lethal injection litigation in the state that is the runaway death penalty leader, the report said.

Pharmaceutical companies' new stance has forced death penalty states to search for new drug combinations and new sources - compounding pharmacies, Levin said.

Pharmaceutical companies no longer want any association with the death penalty process for both moral and public relations reasons. "Their drugs are to be used for healing only," NPR reported.

According to the NPR story, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the department of corrections sent a letter to a compounding pharmacy in Houston saying, "We promise you that we will keep this on the down-low."

"Just like the big pharmaceutical companies, compounding pharmacies don't want to be associated with executions either. So when the name of the

pharmacy was disclosed in a court proceeding, the Houston compounding pharmacy was furious, embarrassed, and quit," NPR reported.

And the pharmacy asked for their drugs back, and the prison refused to give them back," Levin said.

Several states contend that identifying their drug suppliers should remain a state secret and not even judges should be able to find out. Jason Clark, a representative for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, argues, "It's going to raise serious safety concerns for the business and its employees."

A Texas judge rejected Clark's argument, "ruling the name of the compounding pharmacy is public information." The state immediately appealed. This decision has set the stage for a new front on the legal war over the death penalty, the report said.

"A clean and painless death by injection has played a major role in preserving capital punishment in America. If that becomes a problem, it could complicate the institution's long-term survival," the NPR story concluded.

## 'And if I Can't Have it ... I'd Just Rather Die'

By S.Q. Reviews

"I want a real love, a real house, a real thing to do every day," Mark Wahlberg says, playing the lead in director Rupert Wyatt's *The Gambler*.

He's explaining to his love interest, Amy Phillips (Brie Larson), the reasons why he took the \$200,000 his mother gave him to pay his debt to dangerous men and bet it on a roulette wheel. "And if I can't have it ... I'd just rather die."

Jim Bennett (Wahlberg) is a literature professor who falls for a co-ed who stirs a desire strong enough to challenge his addiction. Wahlberg and John Goodman (a philosophical loan shark named Frank) give magnetic performances. Wyatt delivers an exciting movie, but after the initial rush fades, the story's messages leave the members of S.Q. Reviews cold.

We meet beside the Education

### MOVIE REVIEW

Building to discuss the film. Initially we liked the movie, though Raahsan Thomas takes exception to how Bennett treats his mother. Special guest Richard Richardson thinks the screenwriter should've better conveyed the reason Bennett was angry with his mother.

"The movie is called *The Gambler*," John Chiu says. "Not the guy and his mother."

Chiu is from Hong Kong. We lovingly refer to him as our British talent.

"Fair enough." Richardson pats his French braids. "So tell me why this dude's gambling like he's crazy. His family is rich; he's smart as hell ... what else does he want?"

"He lost his grandfather, his father and, in some ways, his

mother," says Emile DeWeaver. "He has this life filled with loss, and he fills it with more loss in the hopes that one day he'll achieve that victory that'll make everything worth it. He wants his *real life* so bad that he's killing himself to get it, until he finds someone to live for."

"That's another problem with the movie," Thomas says. "All the stupid stuff he did, he *should've* died. Stuff doesn't just work out because you meet a hot blonde. It sends the wrong message that vacancy is filled by finding someone."

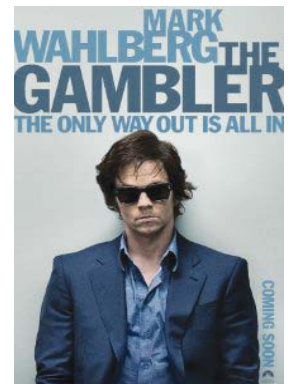
Reviewers shake their heads in agreement, and what began as general acclaim transforms into growing censorship of the cultural values expressed through the movie. The conversation

turns to how *The Gambler* uses stereotypes that reinforce a narrative of inequality.

"I have to ask this because I just shook my head when I saw it," Chiu says. "How do you guys feel about the fact that Bennett owes \$200,000 to an Asian gang that basically lets him slide throughout the movie? John Goodman loans him a bunch more money, but the Black guy is this hot head that wants to kill him over 10 grand."

"Actually, he wanted to kill him for insulting his hat," DeWeaver says. "That's even worse. But is the poor portrayal intentional or just a lack of imagination on the screenwriter's part?"

"Intentional," Chiu says. "John Goodman could've played the petty gangster, who'd kill you over a hat, and the Black guy could've been the wise godfather-criminal with great lines, but casting assigned those roles to specific people for specific



Mark Wahlberg in "The Gambler"

reasons. Is it coincidence that every intelligent, sophisticated role went to White actors while the minorities played cardboard cut-outs?"

We all enjoyed the movie when we watched it, but after we talked about it, the messages and narratives disturbed us. We give it a two out of five dinner cookies.

## Decades of Prison Experience Seen Through the Eyes of K. Brydon

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

It makes sense that fictional writers mostly write from what they know. Author Kenneth R. Brydon does just that.

"The intent of my writing is to provide reflection on life — that what is the 'norm' of society isn't always the reality lived out," Brydon said.

His more than three decades of experience as a prisoner in California's prison system has earned him the ability to tell stories about it with authority.

Brydon's short story, *Consensus of Death*, confirmed this by

### BOOK REVIEW

winning third place in the prestigious PEN American Center Award in the fiction category. For more than 40 years, PEN has been conducting contests for prisoners serving time in federal, state and county jails across the nation.

"Zoe Mullery has been an amazing instructor to me; her mentoring has made this award possible," Brydon said. He has attended Mullery's Creative Writing Workshop since 2004.

*Consensus of Death* is a story about a prisoner who is sent to the hole after his cellie commits suicide. It is a dialogue-driven work of fiction that grapples with the intricacies about prison life, unknown to the outside world.

Fellow prisoners, who read Brydon's take on the experience, might say that he's preaching to the choir; however, its authoritative and impactful storyline carries

an understanding of circumstance, no matter who is the reader.

"Writing untangles my thoughts," Brydon said.

His story could easily be script for a play or short movie. Brydon is the author of more than 30 short stories and three full length novels.

*Consensus of Death* is available to prisoners upon request by writing to *San Quentin News*. Free society can read it by going to [www.brothersinpen.wordpress.com](http://www.brothersinpen.wordpress.com).

*Editor's Note:* Brydon was editor-in-chief of *San Quentin News* in 2008.

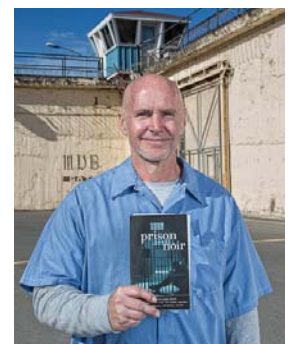


Photo by Peter Merts

Brydon's latest short story "Rat's Ass" is in *Prison Noir*



# Construction Tech Program Going Green

**By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman**

The Construction Technology trade at San Quentin State Prison is reaching new heights in providing training for inmates.

"We're into the green technology now," said Dante Callegari, instructor for the course. "We're just starting the training now, but the equipment has been here for six months. This new training will add another year to our program."

Callegari's students are using new Lab-Volt Systems, Inc. smart training modules to learn how to install solar and wind energy systems, solar thermal energy systems, refrigeration, fire alarms, heating ventilation and air conditioning systems using smart technology.

According to Lab-Volt reading material, the present-day global 'green' initiative is the impetus for many countries to develop reusable energy. "By 2025 solar energy could generate 2.5 percent of the world's electricity."

Through the use of WiFi, Callegari explained how homeowners can control their home systems from anywhere in the world.

"This is an added bonus to our program," said Callegari. "We're going to have them show what they've learned."

One of the lessons is on weatherization technology and how "Much of the energy used to heat and cool homes in the United States is wasted," according to a student training guide.

Callegari said the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) sent him to Sacramento for four days of training on Lab-Volt equipment. "I went to their training facility to learn what to train students on," said Callegari.

The class is generally referred to as building maintenance, which some say is misleading. Inmates tend to think of it as a janitorial course when it's actually construction technology training.

"The Lab-Volt Solar/Wind Energy Training System is a modular program that covers

the history, fundamentals, installation, operation, maintenance, and servicing of alternative energy systems" according to its literature.

Duane Holt, one of 27 students in the class, demonstrated his working knowledge of home solar and wind electrical systems using a Lab-Volt smart module. He also has to do trouble-shooting on a panel to learn how to isolate problems.

"You have to understand theory and schematics," said Holt. "The key is to get to where you're not using energy" from the public power grid.

Tedrick Sims has been in the program for more than a year. Since starting the course, he says he has learned building framing from the basement up to the rafters, electrical wiring, gas lines, plumbing, sinks, water-tight roofing, geo thermal for heat, electrical windmills, and solar power.

"It's an excellent program, and he (Dante) is an excellent teacher," said Sims. "For younger people who will be working for the next 30 years, they should take the class. Even if they don't want to work in the trade they should take the class if they plan to own a home."

Sims said parolees are getting hired immediately and employers have called the prison to ask if there are other parolees who have graduated from the trade. So far 13 students have graduated and six of the graduates have agreed to return as teaching assistants.

"I think it's important that I have six guys coming back and wanting to help train," said Callegari. He said it makes it easier for him to train students who have not yet advanced.

According to Sean Luigs from Elite Supply Source, every CDCR instructor has a trade adviser; he is the adviser assigned to Callegari's class. "I've been in all the prisons. They all operate different. The craziest (busiest) prison that I've been to is Corcoran." He said it is because everyone is running around doing something productive in the shops. "San Quentin is my favorite."

In addition to the hands-on training modules, students



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Trade adviser Sean Luigs and instructor Dante Callegari using PowerPoint to instruct class

study material furnished by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). The books divide various aspects of construction technology into modules, focusing on everything from the introduction to craft skills, safety, masonry, roofing, and pipe fitting.

The "NCCER is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) education foundation established in 1995 by the world's largest and most progressive construction companies and national construction associations," according to the Contren Learning Series (CLS) books. The curriculum was adopted by the CDCR about a decade ago.

The NCCER provides transcript records through a National Registry that it maintains. It also provides certificates and wallet cards to those who have completed modules in the CLS.

"This class is lucky to have Dante," said Luigs. "It's more than his knowledge; it's his wisdom."

Luigs also takes part in training the students. He used a PowerPoint presentation to instruct them on how to use the new technology. "I think it gives them (inmates) inspiration."

Before prison, inmate Marco Villa, who has been in the class for more than a year, worked framing construction, but at San Quentin he said he has ac-



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Lab-Volt Systems smart training module

quired knowledge of the entire construction process.

"We build everything from the ground up," said Villa. He said he has learned about foundations, concrete, rebar, trenches, plumbing, setting blocks, floors, walls and roofs. "He's been a great help," referring to Luigs.

"In this new era, the green environment is an important consideration," an NCCER training guide says. "As a construction

craft worker, you must understand how your daily activities at work and at home affect the green environment."

Callegari has been employee with the CDCR for 28 years, working at various jobs. Previously he has taught at California State Prison-Solano and the California Correctional Center. He has two credentials granted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing as well as OSHA training.



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Duane Holt (second from left) and students standing in front of electrical training module



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Construction Technology class assembled in front of the house they built



# Music, Spoken Word, Poetry, Comedy... All Flourish at S.Q.'s First Lower Yard Show



Photo by Raphale Casale

G. Mesro Coles-El entertains the audience with a piece called, 'The World is Just a Ghetto'

By **Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

A talent show on the Lower Yard of San Quentin State Prison on May 31 was the first of what is planned as an annual event on the Lower Yard. Acts included spoken word, poetry, music and comedy.

The crowd erupted in applause when Billy Hazelton and Jens O. Brazwell took to the stage and performed classic Rhythm and Blues.

Brazwell said that he has been singing *Ain't No Sunshine* since the song came out in 1974. He has been a musician since he was 10 years old.

"It can be a relief. When you're playing music it's like an out of body experience," Brazwell said.

Brazwell has been incarcerated four years and has been at San Quentin just over a month. He was also at San Quentin before, around 2003.

"It was different then," he said. "Now, with all the programs, people are getting out."

Hazelton dedicated *Ain't No Sunshine* to his son, Dennis.

Hazelton has been incarcerated 21 years and has been at San Quentin about year and a half.

"I was fortunate to find Jens (Brazwell) here," Hazelton said.

The comedy acts of Aaron "Harun" Taylor and Eric Durr got the attention of inmate Jarvis "Lady Jae" Clark.

"When Harun did the *I Am*, it was so moving," said Clark, who was sitting on a wall, back-stage. "He was speaking on a spiritual thing. That God is with everyone. He said, 'I am that person sitting on the wall.' and 'I am Jarvis.'"

Clark commented on Durr's comedy routine saying, "Here you had this man look at me, and it was a true recognition of me as a person. It was an acknowledgement to me as a person. I was proud to know both of them. They were comfortable within themselves. They may not agree with my lifestyle, but they respect me as a person."

Hip-Hop performers, Lemar "Maverick" Harrison, Antwan "Banks" Williams, and Harry "ATL" Smith entertained the crowd with several spiritually-



Photo by Raphale Casale

Billy Hazelton and Jens O. Brazwell plays 'Aint no Sunshine'

based pieces.

I love the chance to give the testimony of my transformation," Banks said. That's why we performed, *Beast, Broken and Battered*, and *He's Coming Back Fo'Real*."

*Beast* describes the story of who we used to be before coming to the Lord, Banks said.

Its message is regardless of mistakes, we all have redeemable traits to the betterment of life.

*He's Coming Back Fo'Real* is a hard-core gospel anthem to motivate the younger generation to believe in the Lord.

"It's a great thing to be part of a community that allows us to bear the fruit of our transformation," ATL Smith said. "Shout out to Mother Jackson. We love her because she's the one who got us on this hype."

*The World is Just a Ghetto*, performed by G. Mesro Coles-El captivated the audience with its informative, yet rhythmic message: *The world has to know the truth. Somebody has to tell it. The war on drugs is a war on people.*

Several bands also entertained



Photo by Raphale Casale

'Banda Paisa' performs traditional Mexican music for the Spanish speaking audience



Photo by Raphale Casale

Performers Lemar "Maverick" Harrison and Antwan "Banks" Williams please the crowd with a spirituality rap piece

the audience, including *Banda Pisa* with traditional Mexican music that can be described as festively jolly, with vibrant guitar picking and harmonic vocals.

Richie Morris played a couple of original songs, *Bright LA Lights* and *I Can't See You Anymore*, along with *A Moment in Time*, by Dwight Krizman.

"To those who have courage

to get up here and do something good, thank you," Krizman said.

John Neblett read *The River Man*, by Elizabeth Bishop.

"It's about my ancestor's culture in the Amazon," he said. My great-grandfather is said to be half-Amazon Indian, by way of Barbados, which is 99 percent black. So, this poem means a lot to me."

## Is Rap Your Daddy? Was Rap Music My Dad?

### Yard Talk

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Green numbers 6-6-6 surround by red flames tattooed on the face of his 18-year-old son were the first thing Demond Lewis noticed in the picture. He sat on his bunk, bewildered, staring at the photo his sister had sent. He wondered why his son would think a tattoo on his face was a good idea. Then he remembered listening to Scarface's *Last of a Dying Breed*. He remembered the influence rap music had on him growing up. He remembered that when the state sentenced him to 109 years to life for shooting a man in the leg, he left his son without a positive male role model. Is rap music raising his son?

"Me and my son argue because he put tattoos on his face," said Lewis. "That's part of hip hop culture. I had to tell

him, 'Dude, you have a rapper's look without a rapper's money. Who is going to hire you?'"

In broken homes, rap music often replaces the male role model at the critical time when adolescents are trying to find their identity. Several prisoners got together on San Quentin's Lower Yard to discuss whether the influence of rap music is as powerful as the presence of a father.

Antoine Watie views rap music as an influence that replaced his father because it filled the void of a male role model in his life. It was from rap music that he learned about the birds and the bees, what clothes to wear in his community, that working a 9-5 job was for suckers, that all women were "hoes" except his mother, and that "respect was king" to be gained at all cost, even if it meant killing another man.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Members of the Yard Talk panel discussing the effects of rap music

**Antoine Watie:** "Every area that my parents dropped the ball, rap was there to pick it up. Rap taught me to love only money. When I should have known that drugs were bad, I was taught by Easy E that the dope man was something to aspire to be."

**John "Yahya" Johnson:**

"Rap was my daddy. When I ran the streets, I considered myself an orphan. I listened to the OGs (older guys); I considered Ice Cube an authority [on life]."

**Richard "Bonaru" Richardson:** "You could say rap was sort of like a father figure, but I looked up more to the members of my gang as father figures. I

used rap to create an identity for myself."

**David Jassy**, the 40-year-old Swedish rapper, has a different perspective.

**Jassy:** "Rap was my homeboy, not my daddy. My dad was a doctor. I would listen to him more than I did to rap. You hang out with your homeboy and talk about stuff your parents usually didn't say. Dad has a different role."

Not everyone on the panel agreed that rap music was their daddy. But one thing is for sure: all of them concur that it was a powerful influence in their lives. For most, rap music was like a father – it taught them how to be "men." For others rap music was a friend, relating to them in a way only friends can. Either way, rap meant more than entertainment.

*Next in this six-part series, the panel will explore what specific influences the genre had on them.*

*Trenise Ferreira contributed to this story.*



# Veterans' Dramas Reveal Life After Military

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

"Veterans need help" was the message that resonated in a play performed just days before Memorial Day by a group of incarcerated inmates representing San Quentin's Veterans Healing Veterans from the Inside Out.

The performance was a back story about 12 veterans who shared personal reasons for joining the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

"I joined the Navy because I have a great love for my country," the sailor said. "I joined the Air Force because I wanted to protect my country," said the airman.

Each veteran's story was a personal insight into his enthusiasm for joining the military and supporting his country, but the eventual outcome of protecting the United States and its special interest throughout the world, leaves them in a deep, dark, desperate and depressive psychotic condition. There are things in those experiences they will not forget.

Their stories revealed how the proud and few who served their country eventually became victims of the United States War Machine, a metaphorical description of the government's passion for putting its resources on the front line throughout the world.

For years, veterans have been ordered to kill the enemy of the War Machine. This indoctrination starts in Basic Training and is drilled into their psyche during advance training or on battlefields.

Vietnam-era veterans were portrayed as despicable war mongers. After 9/11, the image of a veteran fighting in the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars was portrayed as a hero. Despite what war veterans serve in, they are trained to become a killing apparatus.

The play showed that once the veteran was removed from that environment, in many in-



Photo by Leroy Lucas

This scene depicts a military firing range and a young teen gets shot

stances he became a liability. Returning to civilian life was a virtual nightmare. Family and relationships were strained and in most situations, destroyed.

***"No one really cares nor understands what goes on in the mind of the veteran who lives daily with the stress of killing another human"***

Their performances elucidated the problems of homelessness. In many cities throughout the country, veterans who make up a very large percentage of that population are alco-

holics and dope addicts. Several actors played out their roles as alcoholics and drug abusers. In another reenactment, veterans were seen mimicking their military duties.

In one scene, the fury of Hell was released upon them. The veterans were seen struggling as they attempted to adjust to the normal routine of everyday life. Every thing he did was a challenge, filled with mental and physical anguish.

Throughout the performance, actors continued to demonstrate the effects of war. For many years, a quiet storm of mental depression never caught the public's attention. One of the actors told the audience, "No one really cares nor understands what goes on in the mind of the veteran who lives daily with the stress of killing another human."

The audience was given insight into how medical experts aren't quite prepared to take on



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Sayriah plays a character that demonstrates a Taliban woman being shot with a baby in her hand



Photo by Leroy Lucas

This scene portrays captured American soldiers by religious militants

the many challenges the veteran confronts after spending time in these war zone battlefields, such as how evidence-based studies used to diagnose Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) have not cured this illness; and that the Veteran Administration is a dysfunctional operation of applications, forms, contradictions and apathy.

For several of the actors, their performances gave them a real sense of purpose.

There is growing evidence that PTSD is a contributing factor to the high rate of violence among military personnel.

According to *Frontline*, between 2002 and 2009, there were 14 murders committed by post-combat Army personnel stationed at Fort Carson.

One reminder for the American public that relates to the side effects of war is the number of veterans who commit suicide.

In the years since the start of the Middle East wars, more than 73,000 American veterans have committed suicide. In September 2009, 18 veterans were committing suicide a day. Today, that number is up to 22 a day or more than 8,000 a year, according to the *Suicide Katz Study*.

Ron Self, founder of Veterans Healing Veterans from the Inside Out, told the audience, today, by the time this performance ends, "12 veterans have already committed suicide. We need to save our veterans from these tragic consequences."



# A's Edge Santa Monica Suns, 13-12

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

In a back and forth nail-bitter, the San Quentin A's edged the San Monica Suns, 13-12. Traveling six hours and hundreds of miles from Los Angeles County, the Suns faced the first game of a double-header.

The Suns opened up the first inning with two quick singles and a double by Zach Mann for a 2-0 lead.

A's pitcher Reggie Hunt readjusted and found the strike zone to close the Suns out.

The A's answered with three runs. Cleo Cloman walked, and then Carlyle "Otter" Blake stepped to the plate, belting a deep ball to right field for a triple.

Anthony Denard, A's shortstop, hit a double to bring in Blake and later scored off a sacrifice fly from Royce Rose.

"It's good to be able to make plays both on defense and batting. It's also good to be on a team that will pick you up if you're down," said Rose.

The A's put up three scores in the second for a 6-2 lead.

"They are out-playing us. They have good defense and the wind isn't helping," said Sun Sanjay Nagarkar.

The Suns scored two runs in the fourth. After two walks, Suns coach Bob Sharkan stepped to the plate and belted a line drive to deep center field for a double.

The Suns closed the gap 6-4.

"No matter who you are,



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

**Bilal Coleman attempts to bunt the ball**

you've got to go out there and play," said Sharkan.

The Suns' defense also picked

up, catching the A's Cloman twice in a pickle after attempting steals.

In the fifth, the A's pitcher found himself with the bases loaded. Hunt walked in two runs to tie the game 6-6.

Hunt was relieved by Gary "Cool Aid" Townes.

Townes gave up a single to Suns Nick Onorato to drive in a run for the 7-6 lead.

"I was struggling. I'm just glad to get the bat on the ball. These guys are better than some of the teams in our league," said Onorato.

The A's scored three times to retake the lead, 9-7. The Suns added four runs in sixth to recapture lead 11-9.

The A's move back in front off

a RBI single from Bilal Coleman. Blake drove in two runs with a double for the 11-10 lead.

"I broke my slump. I'm back in this," said Coleman.

Cloman broke two bats and was rewarded with a single. Blake pop out to right field, bring up Denard who hit a line drive past third base for a single.

Denard stole second base. Chris Marshall then belted a deep ball between center and left field to send Cloman and Denard home for the 13-12 win.

"It was a good game. We started with a little jitters, but we shook it off. They came with a push and we pushed back. We helped carry each other for the win," said the A's Ama Upumoni.

## 7 Giants Errors Hand 7-3 Victory to Santa Monica Suns

The visiting Santa Monica Suns completed a doubleheader by defeating the San Quentin Giants, 7-3.

"These games are always a blessing," said Suns head coach Bob Sharkan.

"We have been coming in here for at least eight years now. I write and thank the warden every year for this baseball program. I believe in this program; it helps many people. It brings people together from different backgrounds, as one on the field.

"Over the years, I bought in a lot guys and we lost good players. But some of these guys bring in their own teams now," Sharkan said. "I guess you can say we are a victim of our own success. But no matter how far we travel, we love to donate our time or whatever is needed for this program."

Rasheed Lockhart of the Giants added, "It's a pleasure to play these outside teams. They care, and it's not too many

people who care. Even though we lost, everybody played hard. This was my favorite game of the year. These guys (the Suns) are like old friends coming to see you. They make you feel human."

Both teams had to battle the dusty winds on the dry baseball field.

The Suns got 10 hits as the Giants failed to field the ball. The Suns scored four runs in the third.

Vinnie Disanti hit a line drive to shortstop Nico Vegas, who lost the ball as it popped out of his glove. This allowed Nick Onorato to score after he drove in two runs off a double to center field.

The Giants racked up seven errors, which kept them out the game.

John Appley walked Alex Martinez. Sun Sanjay Nagarkar belted a deep ball to right field for a triple for the 4-0 lead. The Suns score three more times in the fifth off two

singles and a double by Bob Sharkan.

The Giants managed to score in the third, fourth, and the seventh but never closed the gap.

"It's was like playing on Mars out there fighting those winds," said Giant Trevor Bird.

Giant Antonio "Boobie" Cavitt added, "I'm just enjoying this. I parole in a couple of months. I got so many life lessons out of this time and this program, so when I leave, I'm taking God with me first and a positive attitude.

"I can't wait to see my grandkids. All I can say is we should always celebrate someone going home."

The Suns shared their own joy; brothers Alex and Anthony Martinez got to see each other.

"I don't get to see Alex often, since he lives in Los Angeles, so him traveling up here to play these guys was good," said Anthony.

## Sonoma Stompers Blank San Quentin All-Stars, 12-0

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

The semi-pro Sonoma Stompers put on a baseball clinic for the San Quentin All-Stars, pounding them 11-0.

"Their pitchers came out throwing heat. They were unhittable. The All-Stars did have pretty good defense. We just haven't seen a team of this caliber all season," said Michael "Sparky" Lain, the Giants' statistician.

The All-Stars were selected from the S.Q. A's and Giants rosters to face the Stompers, a team in the Pacific Association of Professional Baseball Clubs.

"I have a 92-mile-an-hour fast ball," commented Stompers pitcher Mark Jackson. "Today I threw a lot of junk: curve balls and sliders.

"I was nervous at first, coming to play in a prison. Everyone is so cool, so I calmed down and got into the competition. It's an experience. I'm loving this; I might not be able to do this again."

Sean Bison, Stompers assistant general manager, said, "We sign people from different



Photo by Sam Hearnes

**Giant Angelo Mecchi at bat**

colleges and semi-pro teams. We signed Gregory Paulino; he throws 89-90-miles-an-hour."

Paulino is from the Dominican Republic and played for an Oakland A's farm team before he injured his arm.

He closed the game for the Stompers.

John Appley, Giants All-Star, said, "It's challenging to go up against that type of pitching. To play a semi-pro team was everything I expected."

The May 28 game was a part

of the Stompers' spring training.

A crowd of about 30 gathered to cheered and boo almost every play.

"Baseball helps you deal with failure. It's about perception. Like, I think this game benefits us more. It lets our guys know that baseball is more than just business. It's about passion, and playing you guys (All-Stars) shows them that," said Stompers general manager Theo Fightmaster.

The All-Stars pitchers faced some big hitters.

"I led our league in home runs and RBIs last season. Different pitchers throw you different looks. So you learn how to hit at different speeds. The main thing: always be at your best; you don't know who's watching," said Joel Carranza, Stompers first baseman.

The only one to hit a home run was Stomper Andrew Parker.

He belted A's Chris Marshall's pitch deep over the center field gate.

"It's a pleasure to face those guys. They are professionals, and we got a chance to play them in prison. You don't get that anywhere else," said Marshall.

Alex added, "This is the first time me and my brother played on the same team. This is a good cause and I'm glad he came out with us."

The June 6 doubleheader (the other game was against the S.Q. A's) found everyone in high spirits.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience" said Sun Zach Mann.

Giants' pitcher Appley finished with, "I didn't have a good game, but these guys came all this way for us and we thank them for coming."

—Marcus Henderson

## Diego Brothers Hammer Hardtimers, 32-15, in Softball



Photo by Sam Hearnes

**Hardtimer DuPreist Brown rounding past Diego Brother JD Diego**

The visiting Diego Brothers softball team crushed the San Quentin Hardtimers, 32-15.

The Hardtimers failed to turn a double play to close the second inning, opening the door to 13 Diego Brothers runs.

With the bases loaded and one out, Diego Brother Todd Morris hit a fly ball between second and first base. Hardtimer second baseman Paul Oliver dropped the ball, allowing two runs to score. Oliver then over-threw first as another run scored.

"I don't know what happened. Nothing was working. Our defense wasn't happening. It wasn't because of a lack of effort. The guys didn't give up. We just couldn't put together a string of hits either," said Hardtimers head coach Dan White.

Oliver added, "It was really windy. It made the ball really tricky to get to. Overall, I'm just happy to play these guys. They are a great fundamental softball team. They came to give us their time and I treat it like a visit."

In the sixth, the Diego Brothers

put up seven more runs. With bases loaded again, Diego Brother Ryno Fisher belted the ball to deep right field for a triple and the 29-3 lead.

"No matter what the score is, I enjoy playing these guys. Any of us could have been in this position. So if I was here, I would want people to come here and do this for me," said Fisher.

The Hardtimers did have one bright moment in the sixth. John "Dunnie" Windham sky rocketed a home run over the Arc Building, driving in three RBIs.

The Diego Brothers didn't let up, scoring three more times, while the Hardtimers scored eight to close out the day.

The June 5 game was windy with few onlookers, but it ended in high spirits.

"We always look forward to coming here and helping out. They are a good group of guys and I never feel threatened coming here," said J.D. Diego, head coach of the Diego Brothers.

—Marcus Henderson



# Eddie Herena Breaks Another 1000 Mile Club Record

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Eddie Herena added a new record to his achievements when he broke the one-hour run record of the San Quentin 1000 Mile Club.

He completed 9-3/8 miles in 60 minutes, besting Ronnie Goodman's record of 9.25 miles in 2009.

Herena, 32, also "holds the San Quentin 1000 Mile Club record for the one-mile, three-mile, 5,000 meters and six-mile races, as well as being a member of the record-setting distance medley and 4x1-mile relay teams," said coach Frank Ruona.

Reynaldo Campos, 38, took second place with 8 and 7/8 miles.

"I'm happy. Training with the club, playing soccer and basketball helped my conditioning to finish," said Campos.

Sergio Carrillo, 41, took third with 8-13/16 miles completed. Carlos Ramirez, 37, was fourth with 8-5/8.



Photo by Sam Hearn

1000 Club members racing around the San Quentin Lower Yard track

The May 22 run had a diverse group of runners. Seventy-year-old Steve Wilson inspired the runners and the crowd.

Although a few runners dropped out, Wilson finished.

"I've been running 30 or 40

miles a month. I never ran an hour before; I ran at my pace, and running with my friend John Levin helped me," said Wilson.

Outside trainers Kevin and Suzanna "Zany" Rumon were

two of six official lap counters.

"Running helps you to go somewhere else for an hour," said Rumon.

Suzanna added, "Everybody runs their own race, but running with others helps build

relationships. Plus you can take running anywhere you go."

The gloomy day did keep the runners cool as they made their way around the uneven track.

"This was the perfect weather to race and to have the outside guests makes the race legitimate. When you run, you just have to make a plan and stick with it," said Steve Reitz, 39.

Reitz ran 8-1/4 in 60 minutes, coming in ninth.

Alberto Mendez, 60, and Abdel Kader Morceli, 32, were coming off leg injuries but were happy to test their strength to compete.

Morceli came in fifth with 8.5 miles. Mendez ran 7-1/8.

First-time runner Danny Plunkett, 45, put in 7.5 miles in an hour.

"I usually run for 20 minutes. I got into a zone and told myself I just need to double my time," said Plunkett.

After the race, all the 1000 Mile Running Club members received a pair of new running shoes from the club issued by coach Ruona.

## Warriors Executive of the Year Competes At San Quentin in Midst of Tense Playoff Run

Continued from Page 1

as well, nailing jump shots and helping the Green Team take a 17-point first quarter lead. He was the Green Team's second leading scorer with 23 points. By halftime, Myers had 19 points and 11 rebounds and the Green Team was ahead, 49-26.

At halftime, S.Q. Warrior GM Robert "Bishop" Butler addressed all participants at mid-court, along with Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team player Brandon Curtis.

"Whatever you do, act like the world is watching," said Butler in his inspirational message.

Curtis advised, "Use your time wisely, because you never know how the Lord will use it to make you prosper."

The S.Q. Warriors had a chance to win in the fourth quarter. After being down 20 points in the first half, Harry "ATL" Smith led them back to within four.

Smith stole the ball and dribbled down court for a layup to make the score 81-77 with 50 seconds left in the game.

However, former overseas pro Griffin Reilly sealed the deal for the Green Team by driving baseline, coming up under the far side of the basket for a reverse. He was fouled and completed the "and-one," making the score 84-77.

The S.Q. Warriors tried intentional fouling to stop the clock but couldn't complete the comeback.

Smith was unstoppable. He scored several times with his shoulder pressed against the chest of defenders. He made 14 of 20 shots and led the Warriors with 30 points and 10 rebounds.

"ATL is tough. If you take away the basket, he'll hit you with a jumper," said Reilly.

Allan McIntosh added 20 points. Anthony Ammons had a double-double, scoring 13 points and snatching 12 rebounds. However, Ammons only hit 5 of 23 shots from the field.

The Green Team came with one of the deepest rosters of talent they ever brought into San Quentin. The depth of young talent made them better than the last time Myers played in Quentin with former NBA players Luke Walton and Jarren Collins as teammates. They lost the September 2014 game to the S.Q. Warriors, 92-88, when Myers dropped 27 points.

The Green Team also lost its first two games of the 2015 San Quentin basketball season.

"We went down 0-2; we have to bring all the big guns," said Ilegbodun.

They returned with former overseas pros Evan Fjelds and Reilly; former Washington Generals Antoine Maddox, and several former college players like Pat Lacey, Kyle Flowers, Justis Willis, Ilegbodun, Charles Lowery, and Mike Picone, plus Curtis. Also suited up in Green for the first time in two years was recent Washington University (in St. Louis) graduate and export guard Kent Lacob, Kirk's brother and a future Golden State employee.

"They brought in some good talent. Sometimes basketball IQ and teamwork can outdo athleticism and potential," said Smith.

Kent Lacob came off the bench and got a steal as soon as he entered the game. He also connected with his brother to drop a three-pointer.



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Bob Myers (center) surrounded by S.Q. Warriors and Green Team during pep talk

Myers, who is 40 years old, was recently chosen as the NBA Executive of the Year.

"It's an award that singles me out but you can't get that without a lot of help," confided Myers. "To be voted on by other GMs means a lot."

Myers plays like a man who should have been a pro. Averaging 32 points a game, he has led the Green Team in scoring every time he played in San Quentin — even with former NBA players as teammates. He did play for UCLA's 1995 championship team.

"I was 5-foot-7 in high school. I didn't get good at basketball until my senior year at college. I missed my window," said Myers, who is now about 6-foot-7.

After the game, S.Q. Warrior Smith expressed the team's appreciation that the Golden State executives had taken the time to come into San Quentin. "Here we are here incarcerated and, through basketball, meeting guys who are doing great things out in the world," he said.



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Myers whips the ball to his open teammate



# Vets Pay Tribute to the Fallen on Memorial Day

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

On the chilly Monday morning observed as Memorial Day, seven flags flew over San Quentin State Prison's Lower Yard, one flag for each branch of the U.S. armed services and two for Vietnam veterans.

As aging veterans doing time paid tribute to the fallen soldiers of wars fought throughout American history, other inmates attended to the American Indians' sacred grounds, played sports or just lingered around the track.

On a makeshift stage decorated with the American flag and POW-MIA flags, the names, ages, military branches and hometowns of soldiers who were killed in action were read aloud. After each acknowledgment, inmate-veteran Al Garner tolled a bell.

"It is a great honor to work with these veterans inside here," said Mary Donovan, chief sponsor of one of San Quentin's veterans groups, before she went onstage to read off names.

On this Memorial Day, 1,145 names were honored. In the past three years, 3,285 names have been read during Veterans Day and Memorial Day observances. All the fallen service members of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) from 2003 to 2012 have been read. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is an ongoing war that continues to yield casualties. To date, San Quentin inmates have read over 1,400 names of Killed In Action (KIA) from OEF.

At noon, 35 inmate-veterans assembled in formation on the Lower Yard for presentation of the colors by Craig Johnson, Norfleet Stewart, David Tarvin and Tedrick Sims. As the inmate-veterans saluted the American flag, Larry "Popeye" Fasion performed taps.

"Even though we're behind bars, we're still veterans," said Johnson, 58, a Vietnam veteran who served in the Navy. "All have given some, but some have given all. It is these men and

women we're honoring today."

One of the oldest veterans at San Quentin is Lawson J. Beavers, who was born on March 25, 1935. "I served two tours in the Far East and in Korea," Beavers said. Imprisoned 17 years, he has been at San Quentin for six years.

Inmates performed "Now I Have Arrived," an original song by inmate Richie Morris, with Morris playing a guitar decorated with the American flag, Dwight Krizman playing drums on a five-gallon bucket and Isaiah Daniels playing bass.

"I think of it not so much as a melancholy day. It's in honor of those who survived, too," Morris said before their performance.

Toward the end of the day, a prisoner named Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla, vice president of Veterans Healing Veterans, divulged some astonishing numbers connected to the OIF and OEF war campaigns. "In 14 years since the start of the Iraqi War, and including the Afghanistan War, less than 1 percent of Americans have served in the armed forces. That is just under 2 million people.

---

*"We all came home with scars, not only on the outside, but on the inside"*

---

Of that number, approximately 500,000 were engaged in intensive combat operations. Seven-thousand Americans have been killed in action during that time. The tragedy is that 73,000 plus men and women returning from the combat zone have committed suicide, as a result of not being able to manage their PTSDs," Thompson-Bonilla said. During September 2009, 18 veterans a day were committing suicide. That number has increased to 22 a day at present, or approximately 8,030 suicides a year.



Photo by Steve Emrick

The San Quentin Color Guard opens the Memorial Day tribute with a ceremonial display of the American and POW flags

Thompson-Bonilla, who was a sergeant first class, served in combat in eight countries, from Bosnia to Africa to the Mediterranean. "We all came home with scars, not only on the outside, but on the inside," he said.

He also expressed the need to recognize these men and women as well. "These men and women returned home from the war, but the war lived on inside their heads, and because they were unable to find or utilize the help that is available, suicide became the solution to their dilemma. Today, we remember those who committed suicide due to their experiences in war - they too have paid the ultimate sacrifice," Thompson concluded.

Members of the Hawaiian Spiritual Dance Group — Davante Spires, Reggie "My Tribe" Hola, Damon Cooke, Pangthong and Donald Ray Walker Jr. — closed the tribute with a prayer summoning fallen warriors of the past to pay respect "to elders and fallen soldiers."

(Walker was in the Navy from

2002-2007. He served two tours in Persian Gulf on board the USS Nimitz, CVN-68.)

During the day, special tribute was paid to the recent suicide of

veterans group Vice-Chairman Jesse Hernandez. A memorial service was held for Hernandez on May 29 at the prison's Protestant Chapel.



Photo by Steve Emrick

Albert Garner chimes the bell after a fallen soldier's name is announced



Photo by Steve Emrick

Veterans wait to announce names to honor deceased military members

Save Our  
Water



Learn easy ways to  
save water during  
California's drought at  
[SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com)