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Photo by Brian Asay

S.Q. News Adviser W. Drummond, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo T. Garcia, Press Secretary Katrina Rill and TV Writer Mike Larson

## Congresswoman Jackie Speier Given Insight Into Prison Rehab

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Congresswoman Jackie Speier ventured inside San Quentin State Prison to hear firsthand about incarceration, rehabilitation and reentry from 26 inmates whose crimes included Three-Strikes, burglary, rob-

bery and murder.

"I was taken profoundly by the adjustment that so many of the men made in their lives," Speier said. "Most people have no idea and think that you don't change."

The forum began by the inmates talking about how their lives were impacted when they

were housed in maximum security (level IV) prisons.

"There were few programs, and the people had a lot of time to serve," Miguel Quezada, 33, said. "There are men who never think about rehabilitation. It's about survival. There's no

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## Lethal Weapon Star Hits the Yard

By J.R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Actor Danny Glover with CO Frazier and Lt. Walls

You weren't seeing things. That really was the actor from the "Lethal Weapon" movies crossing the yard at San Quentin.

Veteran actor Danny Glover was the latest celebrity guest to visit the state's oldest prison.

On June 8, 2015, Glover walked into the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) in the middle of their class.

"I was surprised about how personable he was and how I instantly felt comfortable

See Danny on Page 8

## 15 Men Cited for Ministry Skills At 4th Annual Theological Graduation

By Wesley Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

It took more than two and a half years for 15 San Quentin Prison men in blue to finish a religiously based college course that they say not only changed their lives, but also changed how their families see them.

"It's a blessing to know that I'm no longer considered as the black sheep of my family but as the person who



Photo by Sam Hearn

Dr. Iorg and Darryl Hill Sr.

has been transformed into a mighty man of God heralding the Gospel of Jesus Christ through my actions," said graduate Kevin Carr Sr.

The Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary curriculum emphasizes spiritual growth. Its lessons use biblically based scholarship to help students develop ministry skills in a multicultural setting.

See Theological on Page 14

## Exploring Injustices In Mass Incarceration

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

More than 200 people from across America met inside San Quentin State Prison for a (Restoring Our Original True Selves) ROOTS symposium exploring the best ways to stop mass incarceration and immigration injustices.

Proposed solutions included allowing rehabilitated men, who are first time offenders or com-

mitted their crimes while under 23 years old, have a chance to be released. Speakers also advocated against the school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline.

The solutions were recommended by prisoners in the ROOTS program, who also spoke about cultural trauma passed from parents to children.

ROOTS is mainly a group of Asian and Pacific Islands in-

See Mass on Page 10



Photo by Sam Hearn

Wilson Chen tells an inspirational story about his life

## S.Q. 2015 Avon Annual Breast Cancer Walk for A Cure



Dr. E. Tootell, T. Foss and Chief Deputy Warden K. Mitchell during the 2013 Avon Breast Cancer Walk

San Quentin State Prison's Lower Yard was the setting for the annual Avon 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer on the weekend of July 11 and 12. ([avon39.org](http://avon39.org))

In the past, each day the event has drawn about 150 inmates and 50 community member who walk laps around the prison's Lower Yard.

The fundraiser was created seven years ago by inmate organizers of San Quentin CARES and on average has annually brought in about \$10,000, with inmates contributing about \$2,000.

Several inmate self-help groups co-sponsor the walk, including San Quentin TRUST, The Richmond Project, Kid CAT, Alliance For Change, Thespians, The 1,000 Mile Club, The Work, Kairos and No More Tears.

Due to an early deadline for this issue, our report on the Avon Walk will appear in the *San Quentin News* next month.

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# Catholic Choir Director Departs for New Position

*'These days we utilize more contemporary liturgical music'*

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

Sister Karen Conover will be winding up 15 years as director of San Quentin's Catholic Chapel choir for a new ministry.

She will be departing in August for a new role of "internal community service" to the retired sisters who live in an assisted and skilled nursing community at their mother house complex in Dubuque, Iowa.

Sister Karen, BVM, had been ministering to the men of San Quentin's Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Chapel with her singing and music since September 1999, when she was first invited to visit by Franciscan Brother Rufino Zaragoza, OFM.

"It was a chance meeting. I came and was hooked. In those days we had about 200 men in orange at the services," Sister Karen says of her initial visit.

She belongs to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She began her primary ministry teaching high school chemistry at St. Paul's Parish in San Francisco from 1980 to 1994, where she also taught choral for a brief time and has led the Saturday afternoon parish music program since 1981.

In 1995 she transferred to Holy Names High School, an all-girls school in San Francisco, where she also taught chemistry.

"I enjoy making chemistry accessible to students, especially girls, whether practical or mathematical, in order to help girls to believe it's accessible," she said.

She says that she likes teenagers, especially high school juniors, "because they're old enough to start being their own person but not too old to get 'senioritis.'"

Regarding her ministry at San Quentin, Sister Karen pointed out that she has a lot of experience choosing appropriate music for the readings and seasons, declaring, "These days we utilize more contemporary liturgical music."

"Outside people bring a 'ministry of presence' to men who are incarcerated," she tells *San Quentin News*, adding, "I find a tremendous



File Photo

Sister Karen Conover ends her S.Q. tenure

amount of spirituality here. People are doing real spiritual work such as working on humility, hope, etc., real Christian virtues, more than what I experience in an outside parish. They experience real growth."

*"I enjoy making chemistry accessible to students, especially girls, whether practical or mathematical"*

Discussing how her San Quentin ministry has affected her, she said her former housemate and San Quentin parishioner, Sister Maureen O'Brien, BVM, who told her

on numerous occasions, "On Sundays, you come home happy."

"The choir has flourished under her leadership," remarked Father George Williams, San Quentin's Catholic chaplain. "I'm saddened; she's a friend," he added regarding her departure.

On Aug. 2 she will be celebrating her "Golden Jubilee" in San Francisco, commemorating 50 years since her consecration into religious service, with a second celebration to take place on Aug. 8 in Dubuque.

Despite looking forward to her new calling, Sister Karen admits, "Leaving is the hardest part."

Choir member and guitarist Alan Brown lamented wistfully, "We'll always carry her in our hearts here at San Quentin; there will be a missing spot for her for a long time."



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

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

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

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*San Quentin News strives to report on forward thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support positive changes in prisoner behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.*

# Senators Introduce Bill To Boost Second Chances

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Federal legislation has been introduced aimed to help people with criminal records get a second chance at a successful life.

The bill would accomplish three main goals: a method to clean up a federal criminal record, improve accuracy of FBI background checks and change harsh lifetime bans on public assistance for people with felony drug convictions.

The measure, titled the REDEEM Act, was introduced March 10 by Senators Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, and Cory Booker, D-New Jersey.

The REDEEM act would clean up criminal records by allowing people to put their criminal records behind them by expungement or sealing of the records. Twenty-three states broadened expungement and sealing laws between 2009 and

2014.

REDEEM would seal federal nonviolent records such as drug convictions and arrests that did not lead to a conviction. Some 600,000 job seekers received an inaccurate FBI check in 2012, *Vallas* reported. REDEEM would require the FBI to review each record for accuracy before it is provided to a requesting party.

**“Every year, more than 600,000 American citizens are released into society after serving their time”**

The bill would also reform the outdated lifetime ban on public assistance for people with drug convictions. This would change

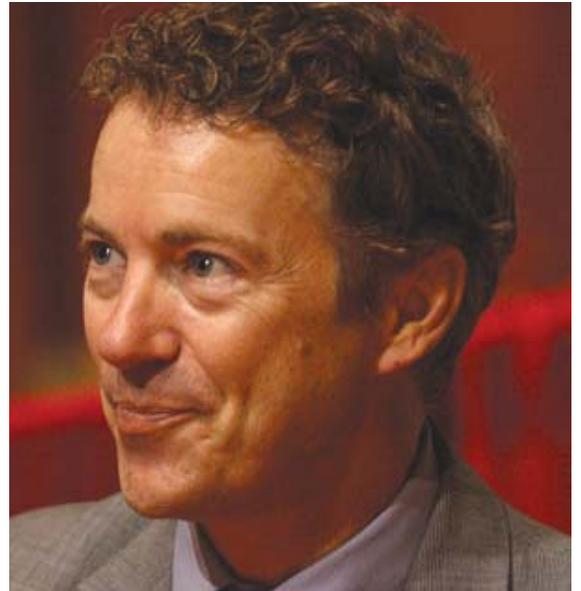
the ban by the 1996 welfare law of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

It is another step in criminal-justice reforms that has garnered bipartisan support in the nation’s capital, wrote Rebecca *Vallas* in a March 11 article in *The Nation*.

Organizations such as the ACLU and the Center for American Progress have teamed up with conservative groups such as Americans for Tax Reform, Freedom Works and the Koch brothers, *Vallas* reported.

The bipartisan focus in Washington has centered on sentencing reform and reformation of the overly harsh mandatory minimums. The efforts include the Smarter Sentencing Act.

Every year, more than 600,000 American citizens are released into society after serving their time, the article said. Millions more end up with



Senator Rand Paul, R-Kentucky

criminal records without doing time through arrests that do not lead to convictions or through probation-only sentences.

Between 70 million and 100 million citizens have some type of criminal record, *Vallas*

wrote. The rise of technology, internet, state and federal policies can stand in the way of employment, housing, education, building good credit and even attaining a meager public assistance stipend, the story said.

## ‘New, Bigger Thinkers’ Said to Be Brown’s Court Picks

Chief Justice Speaks of Three Selections That Were Inexperienced on the Bench

The changing face of the California Supreme Court was discussed by its chief justice in an interview with KQED.

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye commented on Gov. Jerry Brown’s appointment of three inexperienced jus-

tices to the state’s top court. She said she thought the governor was looking for “new thinkers, bigger thinkers” on the bench. “It’s a diversity of sorts he’s looking for.”

The court spends about 25 percent of its time on death penalty appeals, the chief jus-

tice told KQED’s senior correspondent, Scott Shafer.

“It is difficult to say it (capital punishment) is working. And there’s no talk in the state Legislature of fixing it,” she said.

Fixing it would mean allocating more public money to expedite appeals and reduce the average wait time of 20 years between convictions and executions, KQED concluded.

There has not been an execution since the 2006 execution of Clarence Ray Allen. There are approximately 750 condemned on California’s Death Row.

According to KQED, the last thing state Democrats want is faster executions.

Since becoming chief justice, Cantil-Sakauye has seen the high court shift leftward. When Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger chose her to replace retiring Chief Justice Ronald George in 2010, the court had

one member appointed by a Democratic governor, Carlos Moreno.

During Cantil-Sakauye’s first week on the job, Moreno an-

law professor Goodwin Liu, whose nomination to the federal bench was blocked by Republicans.

According to the report, “when George retired in the middle of the 2010 gubernatorial election, he said he was stepping down so his replacement would be named by Schwarzenegger rather than Brown, who was widely favored to win.”

Since then, Brown has named two more associate justices, Stanford law professor Mariano-Floretino Cuellar, and federal government attorney Leandra Kruger.

None of Brown’s nominees had any previous experience as judges, and all three are Yale Law School graduates.

Cantil-Sakauye stated that Liu was “a wonderful colleague and brilliant.” As for the other two latest additions to the court she added, “...they appear so far to be very deferential to the trial courts and understanding of their role.”

—By Salvador Solorio



Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye

nounced he was leaving the high court, possibly because he was not appointed chief justice, KQED said. Gov. Brown replaced Moreno with University of California at Berkeley

two latest additions to the court she added, “...they appear so far to be very deferential to the trial courts and understanding of their role.”

## Overheated Prisons Prompting Lawsuits

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

There is growing concern about overheated prisons endangering the health and lives of inmates and guards.

Several lawsuits detail the need for reasonable temperature control; medical experts also urge adequate steps to avoid health problems, National Public Radio reports.

NPR quotes a New York University medical professor, Dr. Susi Vassallo, about her visit to a non-air conditioned prison cell one summer:

“When you closed the ... doors, they had just little dots in them, which provided any ventilation from the outside. Even after five minutes ... it was absolutely stifling – it was inconceivable to live there 23 hours a day, day after day.”

NPR also cited the case of Jerome Murdough, who was found dead in February in a Rikers Island jail cell where the temperature was at least 100 degrees.

One lawsuit was filed last year in Louisiana. A judge ruled that temperatures cannot exceed 88 degrees inside of the cells, but no action was taken while the state appeals, NPR reported.

Vassallo also said that for most people, those conditions

are uncomfortable, but that those with some health conditions can be much more sensitive. That includes high blood pressure and diabetes, or those taking certain medications.

Some corrections officers in Texas have even joined a lawsuit against the state’s department of corrections seeking protection from high temperatures.

Former Texas prison guard Lance Lowry now works with the guards’ union. Lowry told NPR that corrections officers have many of the same heat-sensitive health conditions as prisoners.

“Officers frequently suffer from heat cramps and a lot of heat illnesses,” Lowry said.

Lowry also expressed concern that prisoners and the prison environment as a whole are more difficult to manage when the heat is elevated. There are more altercations and more emergencies in general.

It’s important to accommodate heat-sensitive prisoners, but prison is “not a five-star hotel,” former Texas Warden Keith Price told NPR. He is now a professor of criminology and sociology at West Texas A&M University.

Price added that “there’s a certain amount of things that you give up when you become incarcerated.”

## Forced GPS Placement Ruled a ‘Search’

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that law enforcement placing a GPS tracking device on a person amounts to a search, and is therefore protected by the Fourth Amendment.

The unanimous decision March 30 returned a case to the North Carolina Supreme Court that had ruled that placing a GPS device on a person was not a search.

“It doesn’t matter what the context is, and it doesn’t matter whether it’s a car or a person. Putting that tracking device on a car or a person is a search,” said Jennifer Lynch, a senior attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

The Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Torrey Dale Grady v. North Carolina*.

Some of the justices argued the law turns on whether the government has trespassed on someone’s property. While

other members argue that people have a reasonable expectation to the privacy of their location data.

The court decision helps make sense of how the expanding technological powers of the U.S. government interact with the law, according to a story in *The Atlantic*.

In the Grady case, Grady was a twice-convicted sex offender who challenged his order to wear a GPS monitor at all times.

# Ward Allen Focuses on Jobs for Ex-Inmates

*Recidivism Rates for Ex-Offenders Who Graduate Have Been About 7 Percent*

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

For 17 years, Ward Allen has been helping transform the lives of former male and female prisoners, helping them get job skills and jobs.

"The slight, 76-year-old... happily surrounds himself with brawny ex-offenders, erstwhile thieves accustomed to not being trusted, convicted murderers who served their time but can't

find a job to support themselves or their families," wrote Cathie Anderson in a *Sacramento Bee* story.

Last year Allen and three business partners formed the Highlands Community Charter School. They hope it will be an enduring institution educating ex-offenders and other adults without high school diplomas, Anderson reported.

The school also teaches truck driving.

It is the truck-driving program that draws many parolees trying to get a fresh start and they can earn income in a short period of time, said Marvin Speed, a parole administrator with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Allen noted, recidivism rates for ex-offenders who graduate have been about 7 percent.

Speed added Allen has a lengthy list of successful graduates that he calls upon to speak

at orientations for parolees just getting out of prison.

"If we can address the parolees'... needs, and they become a productive, tax-paying citizen, they gain self-esteem and their family situation improves because their kids or significant other look up to them," Speed said. "They're less likely to revert to their criminal ways."

The cost of educating a parolee at Highlands Charter School is small, compared with the cost

of prosecuting and incarcerating a repeat offender."

These parolees give back as volunteer interns at the Senior Gleaners Facility in North Sacramento, where they do their truck and forklift training certifications.

Rosie Cerna of Senior Gleaners said Highland students "helped us to reorganize our facility." Also, vehicle maintenance bills have been cut by 50 percent.

## S.Q. News Welcomes Congresswoman Jackie Speier to Rehabilitation Forum

*Continued from Page 1*

space to think about anything but survival. Violence is the norm."

Quezada committed second-degree murder at age 16 and is in his 18<sup>th</sup> year of incarceration.

Jason Jones, 31, said when he began his incarceration, he was sent to a level four prison and seeing so much violence desensitized him.

"I was in a race riot where I got stabbed over a state lunch," he said. "I thought I was going to die. A complete stranger came and saved me."

Most of the time when a riot erupts, hardly anyone knows what it's about, Jones said.

Speier asked how many of the inmates had been stabbed in prison. Four raised their hands and about a dozen said they were in riots.

Azraal Ford, 43, has been in prison for 17 years. He said that he's been in and out of jail, since he was 14 years old.

"Incarceration has been a nightmare and a blessing because it has allowed me to grow," he said.

"I've been a perpetrator of violence. It happens everywhere. It happens here too. Where that comes from is this place of fear. We're in a world where there are a lot of unknowns. The easiest way to build a sanctuary is to build a fort. The violence within your own circle is more

harsh. We do that because of a lot of shame. So, I want to build these rules to take away the shame. It's a twisted world we live in. The only way it's going to stop is to look at it like a sickness."

"When I first came to prison, it felt like home," said Leroy Lucas, 39, who lived in the 14<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District, which Speier represents. "So, in the beginning, I accepted the hyper-masculinity behavior."

Lucas is in prison for a murder he committed at age 17. He has been incarcerated for 22 years.

Lucas said arriving at San Quentin and participating in various programs helped him turn his life around.

"I'm making strides to be a better person," Lucas said. "Today I want to be somebody. I believe I can be a good citizen."

The inmates described their experiences of racism, violence, drugs and loneliness that prison brings to their lives.

Convicted for his part in a drive-by shooting, Ventrice Laster, 49, is serving four life sentences.

"When I first came to prison, we were on lock-down for a year," he said. "Then, someone was stabbed right in front of me. It gave me nightmares. I knew then, I had to change my perspective of 'It's all about me.'"

Speier was accompanied by two staff members, press secretary Katrina Rill and television writer Mike Larson.

"Learning empathy is powerful," Larson said. "Empathy is a word that most people don't learn, but to learn it while in prison is profound."

"There is actually humanity in prison," added Rill.

"Transformation is about accountability," said Borey Ai, 34. "This has been my home for a long time. I didn't make the changes until I learned about myself."

Ai is serving a life sentence for his part in a robbery/murder when he was 14 years old.

The Cambodian refugee said that coming to the U.S. was a culture shock for his family.

"The one thing programs allow me to do is pay it forward with youth mentorship," he said. "I can see some of my own life in their lives."

Ai said that the Victims Offender Education Group (VOEG) teaches inmates to understand how their actions affect victims and their community.

"It shows the ripple effect of our action," Ai said.

Tommy Winfrey, 37, said that it took him about 10 years into his incarceration to understand that he needed to change. The setting provided by Prison University Project breaks a lot of racial barriers, he said.



Photo by Brian Asey

Congresswoman Speier leaving the SQ News room

"It helps the men work on critical thinking," Winfrey said. "You can't help but to apply these skills to your own life. The college environment helps the socialization process."

Dwight Krizman, 60, told the congresswoman that vocational training, machine shop, plumbing and computers are skills men are learning at San Quentin that could be taken to the streets.

Krizman is serving a life sentence for second-degree murder. He also talked about the Restorative Justice program.

"We run two classes a week with 160 to 170 guys," Krizman said. "Restorative Justice teaches our connection to the community and as an offender to victims. It provides a space for each of us to find our own truth. In that way we become each other's teacher."

"This is a very powerful experience," Speier said. "Thank you for your honesty."

"I think that what you've done here is remarkable," Speier said. "The ability to go from hyper-masculine to hyper-empathetic, that's a skill set needed in the community. I am hopeful about the transition that society is making about the prison population. The movement is getting away from Three Strikes and the death penalty because it is very costly. There has to be a better way to atone for offenses."

Forum Participants:

**San Quentin News Advisors:**

William Drummond, Joan Liseter, Steve McNamara and John Eagan.

### Prisoners:

Wayne Boatwright, 53, is serving a sentence of 7 years 8 months for gross vehicular manslaughter.

Nicholas Garcia, 62, is serving a sentence of 7 years to life for a burglary/murder he committed 38 years ago.

Thomas J. Gardner, 46, is serving a sentence of 25 years to life under California's Three Strikes Law.

Duane Holt, 55, is serving a life sentence for a 1987 murder.

Jason Jones, 31, has been incarcerated since 2006 for assault and criminal threats. Jones is scheduled to be released in 2017.

Chung C. Kao, 54, born and raised in Taiwan, is serving a life sentence for second degree murder.

John Lam, 29, is serving a life sentence for murder.

Joey Mason, 54, is serving a sentence of 25 years to life under California's Three Strikes Law.

Anouthinh Pangthong, 35, is serving a sentence of 25 years to life for killing a man at age 15.

Rahsaan Thomas, 44, is serving a sentence of 55 years to life for second degree murder.

Jaime Sánchez, 32, from Mexico City, is serving a life sentence for 2nd degree murder.

Chris Schuhmacher, 42, incarcerated 15 years; is serving a life sentence for murder.

Frankie Smith, 59, is serving a sentence of 16 years to life for 2nd degree murder.

Shadeed Wallace-Stepter, 33, began his sentence at age 19 for assault with a firearm and has been incarcerated 15 years.

Aly Tamboura, 48 is serving a sentence of 14 years 8 months, for criminal threats.



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Congresswoman Speier enjoys a laugh as she listen to prisoners describe how education and rehabilitation transformed their lives

# Plan to Remove Prison Healthcare System From Receivership Outlined by Judge Henderson

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

A federal judge outlined a plan for California to regain control over its prison health care system after nearly a decade of federal oversight.

U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson handed down the seven-page order after a court-appointed overseer reported that conditions have improved substantially since Henderson appointed a receiver to run California's prison health care in

2006.

Henderson's order is "a well thought-out, elegant transition plan," said Donald Specter, director of the Prison Law Office and one of the attorneys who sued over poor prison health care.

Each of the state's 34 prisons must pass an inspection before they can be returned to state control, Henderson said.

The inspections, performed by the inspector general of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, are under way and are expected to take more than a year, *The Associated Press* reported.

California "has spent \$2 billion for new prison medical facilities, doubled its prison health care budget to nearly \$1.7 billion and reduced its prison population by more than 40,000 inmates in the last decade," the *AP* noted. This was to address the deficiencies in its prison health care system that Henderson found violated inmates' constitutional rights against cruel and unusual punishment.

Some prisons lag far behind others and more work still needs to be done system-wide, reported the court-appointed receiver, J. Clark Kelso.

Henderson also noted in his order that "critical areas of improvement remain."

The judge said prisons that



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson in front of San Quentin's California Health Care Facility



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Prisoner Upu Ama pushes Judge Henderson as they exchange their ideas of giving back to society

pass the inspections could be returned to state control, but the receiver could retake control if conditions at a prison decline. Eventually, the receiver is expected to take on "more of a monitoring function," he said. To regain control, the state

must meet constitutional standards for a year, Henderson said.

"I agree with Kelso that there are still significant issues, both systemic and individual institutions, which have to be corrected before the receivership should end," Specter said.

## Rose Madden's Healing Journey Toward Restorative Justice

*'As a result of this offense, my life was turned upside down'*

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

"My heart was broken," guest speaker Rose Madden said as she told San Quentin inmates the story of the senseless murder of her daughter, Jennifer LeAnne Balber.

Madden also said she learned that inmates are capable of change at the Supporting the Healing Journey Restorative Justice symposium.

"This is part of my healing process. I need to share my story, to let them know how I felt as a victim – the struggles, the depression. Maybe they can pass it on because they not only hurt me, they hurt their families," said Madden.

Balber was murdered on Nov. 10, 1994, in a drive-by shooting while on duty for the SOCAL Gas Co.

"As a result of this offense, my life was turned upside down. The emotional strain...I had no appetite; I suffered from anxiety attacks and depression. I actually pushed my family away," Madden told the audience. "My greatest challenge was having to accept that my daughter was forever gone, and that she would never be 21 years old, never get married or have kids."

The audience also heard from inmate speakers.

Inmate facilitator Danny Plunkett said, "We are a community that celebrates peace. I've heard it said that there

could never be peace. We refuse to believe that, because we believe in community."

"Restorative Justice is my life," said Billy Joe Fuller, who has been incarcerated 38 years.

He recounted being born to a 13-year-old mother and a life of abuse. To cope, he stopped feeling emotions and vowed to make them pay when he got older.

"A lot of days, I didn't want to live but I had to in order to protect my 2-year-old sister. I feed her by stealing," said Fuller.

As a juvenile, he committed murder.

"Before Restorative Justice, I knew what I did was wrong, but after Restorative Justice, I started feeling what I did was wrong. I started feeling sorry for what I had done. I went from someone who didn't care, to looking forward to the next day," said Fuller.

Restorative Justice is a system of dialogue that promotes justice for victims and offenders through repair, identifying needs of both sides and promoting responsibility and healing.

Hearing the inmates' side of the story gave a different perspective to Madden, who is the director of Families and Friends of Murder Victims.

"It makes me understand the perp a little bit better. People here want to change their lives for the better," said Madden.

"There is hope. The mindset that everybody is like the man who killed my daughter is gone."

Her daughter's killer never apologized and committed his third strike while in prison.

*"A lot of days, I didn't want to live but I had to in order to protect my two-year-old sister"*

Madden stated, "If the person who did the crime would stop and sincerely apologize to the family and acknowledge and take responsibility for what they did, this would probably help the surviving member continue living a peaceful life."

She advocated for Marcy's Law, so that victims would have rights in court.

Nina Catalano, an Alameda County public defender, noticed that, "RJ is powerful. I think the way our current criminal justice system misses much of the context. It focuses only on the crime, not the community and future."

Participants gave feedback after the speakers.

Community RJ guest Art Rogers said, "As a Vietnam veteran, I have killed many people. I don't have a prison sentence but I took several lives and there's no jail to go to, only the jail in my head. I think about you men who committed crimes and went to prison and changed your life and are striving to heal and connect with the harm you have done, not for your physical freedom, but to give freedom to your victims and community so your community can

know that you are connected with yourself and society."

Debbie Mayer said, "I'm in a Restorative Justice class at Cal Berkeley law school that's an academic environment – there's no emotion behind it. Feeling the connection between people here is great."

"I have a lot of respect for the fact that you guys have found a way to heal in a prison that isn't designed as a space for it," said Emily Harrison of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.

The June 6 event ended on a lighter note.

"I've cried three times here today. How about some humor," inmate Curtis Dean Askins stated before making the audience laugh by telling about being left back in kindergarten.

"I had to do kindergarten twice," he joked.

*Miguel Quezada contributed to this story*

## Indiana Wants to Build More Prison Cells

By Eusebio Gonzalez  
Journalism Guild Writer

Indiana officials say they need to build more prison cells because they will run out of beds for male inmates within two years.

Prison officials say they need \$50 million for new cells because of recent changes in calculating good time for in-

mates, reported *The Journal Gazette* in Fort Wayne.

The growth is expected despite a 2014 overhaul of the criminal justice system that calls for many nonviolent prisoners to be locked up locally.

The overhaul came in the wake of exploding prison populations which grew from 6,281 in 1980 to 29,377 in

2013.

Rep. Dan Leonard, R-Huntington, said the state expects many counties will be asking for money to help accommodate the influx to local jails.

Some 2.2 million men and women are imprisoned in the United States, making it the highest incarceration rate for any industrialized nation in the world.

# Board Hearings and the Truth Behind Closed Doors

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

## EDITORIAL

As a journalist, when I do a story profile on an inmate at San Quentin, I first look for individuals who demonstrate a willingness to change. Has he come to terms with and does he understand why he committed his crime?

From sitting in circles with men, I have found that men who struggle with telling the entire truth about their offenses are worried about their images and what others might think. However, as time goes on, people who regularly attend sessions in the circle hear stories very similar to their own. This allows everyone to open up and find his own truth.

Some men sit in prison for 30 or 40 years and are never able to demonstrate to the parole board that they have changed their ways.

Sometimes they have difficulty articulating their insight into the root causes of why they committed their crime. Or

sometimes they cannot accept full responsibility for committing their crime.

Stanley L. Baer, 56, from San Diego County is one of those who struggled, but eventually came to terms with his crime.

He appeared before the parole board shortly after the Marsy's Law was enacted in 2009. This law allowed parole boards to extend the time between parole hearings for lifers by as much as 15 years.

Baer is the second person I know who received a seven-year denial from a parole board. As I read his transcripts, I couldn't understand why he received a seven-year denial.

Baer was arrested in October of 1995 in Flagstaff, Az., extradited to California and charged with second-degree murder.

"I went to trial because I wanted to tell the truth about my crime," Baer said. "I also needed Lorie's family to hear the truth

about what happened to their loved one."

After sentencing, in May of 1996, Baer arrived at the reception center at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility. He was later transferred to Pelican Bay.

While at Pelican Bay, he was assigned to building maintenance. He was eventually transferred to a yard where he earned a certificate of completion in mill and cabinet making.

Baer came to San Quentin State Prison in 2002. He said on arriving here he felt like he had been set free. He has completed many programs while here.

During the many times we've attended groups together, I came to consider Baer a man who has grown and matured. I've always been impressed with how he came to terms with his actions and accepting full responsibility for the murder of his wife Lorie.

During a Victims Offenders

Education Group (VOEG) session, he was able to talk about a secret he carried for 47 years.

Baer said when he was 5 years old, his mother put him and his two brothers in bed and set it on fire. His grandmother and father rescued them and had his mother arrested.

She was placed in a mental hospital for five months. When she was released, they were told never to discuss or repeat what happened.

In VOEG, he also revealed that his father didn't graduate from high school and worked at cutting and baling hay for a penny a bale.

He said that his father did all of this hard work so he could marry his mother. But later, his father became physically abusive to his mother, even in front of Baer's brothers and sisters.

Baer was devastated when his parents subsequently divorced while he was in the Marine Corps. He joined in 1976 and received an honorable discharge in 1982.

Baer's mother died in 2004 at age 64. In 1986, his brother Ted had committed suicide. Another brother, George, committed suicide in 1999.

Baer has no juvenile record. His criminal record consists of being arrested in 1988 for assault with a deadly weapon, but the charges were dropped. In 1993 he was arrested again for assault with a deadly weapon and with corporal injury to his spouse. He butted her on the head.

After two failed marriages and having two children, he married his third wife, Lorie. They were married for almost four years before he took her life by strangulation. Baer says he was using a sleeper hold (or choke hold) in an attempt to quiet her down. He admitted their relationship was rocky and abusive.

"It was a bad situation. I should have walked away from it when I had the opportunity," he said. "Had I known all the coping skills I learned over the years in these programs, this would have never happened and Lorie would be with us today."

His relationship with his kids is excellent, he says. When they lived close by, he saw them every three months. He has four grandchildren.

The parole board told Baer; that their "sole purpose is to

determine his suitability for parole."

Baer said the board told him that they are not there to retry his case. But just like Baer, other inmates tell me:

"I felt like I was on trial again."

Commissioner Kane told Baer why he thought he was not suitable for parole. "The offense was carried out in a manner which demonstrates an exceptionally callous disregard for human suffering. The motive of the crime was inexplicable. We don't know why you killed her. You are a trained Marine, but you might not fully have the insight and remorse of why you did it and be truthful about why you did it"

Baer accepts full responsibility for his crime and does not want to minimize the truth. He knows that if he is found suitable, he must continue to involve himself in the sort of self-help, transformative programs that he participated in while in prison. The process of change takes ongoing dedication.

But the essential question is: what does an inmate have to do to be found suitable for parole if he is always being retried by the parole board for the case that got him into prison?

Like Baer, many incarcerated individuals undergo the hard work that is required of them by various programs to show they have changed and are not the same person they were when they committed their crimes. However, that hard work is not given the full credit that it deserves by the board.

The legal question that the board asks and answers: *Is this person a threat to public safety?* And, if their answer is yes: *Is there some evidence to show his or her dangerousness?*

Receiving a life sentence in California is an ongoing and agonizing punishment.

Before facing the parole board, the person understands that a parole date is not automatic. Significant work must be done to affect a change in your life condition.

You have to reconcile your past and present attitude with your proposed future course of conduct and behavior. You must face the truth of your committed offense.

The one big reality you must understand is "insight."

Baer will appear again before the parole board in January 2016.

## Exonerated After 39 Years in Prison

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

DNA evidence exonerated Michael Hanline after he served 34 years for a crime he did not commit. Hanline, 69, was the longest-serving wrongfully convicted prisoner in California history.

California Innocence Project worked for 15 years to free him after persuading prosecutors to re-examine the

evidence. DNA evidence at the crime scene did not match Hanline or his alleged accomplice, said Justin Brooks, director of the California Innocence Project.

The conviction was based on "paper-thin evidence... He is 100 percent innocent," Brooks added.

CBS News reported, "A Ventura County Superior Court judge dismissed the charges at the request of pros-

ecutors, telling the courtroom it was done because the allegations cannot be proved beyond a reasonable doubt."

In 1980, Hanline was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole after being erroneously convicted for the murder of J.T. McGarry.

Hanline's then-girlfriend, Mary Bischoff, was granted immunity and was a key witness at his trial.

As for his plans, Hanline answered: "All I want to do is go fishing and ride my bike and spend time with Sandy (his wife) and do a little gardening."

Other former prisoners released due to wrongful convictions include:

- Susan Mellen, after serving 17 years for the murder of a homeless man. A Los Angeles judge said she was convicted on the word of a liar.
- In 2013 Kash Register was freed after spending 34 years in prison. The judge said prosecutors used false testimony from an alleged eyewitness.
- In 2007, Timothy Atkins was freed after spending 20 years in prison for a 1987 robbery and murder in Los Angeles. A key witness who claimed she heard him confess recanted her testimony, according to the CBS report.

mestic violence and stalking, plus automated identification systems in background checks.

"The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) continues the Justice Department's efforts, initiated by the FBI in 1924, to build an accurate and useful national system of criminal records," said William J. Sabol, acting director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The deadline to apply for funding was May 12, 2014. Eligible applicants were limited to the agency that was designated by the governor in each state.

## Federal Government Moves to Better Its Criminal Record System

By Jerry Smith  
Journalism Guild Writer

The federal government is moving to improve its criminal records system.

The Department of Justice asked for bidders to improve the accuracy, utility and interstate accessibility of criminal history records, a request for proposals said.

The upgrade was intended to enhance the crime fighting and criminal justice capabilities of state and tribal governments, the document said.

The program includes protective orders involving do-

## S.Q. Warrior Maurice Hanks' Parting Words

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

San Quentin Warrior Maurice Hanks paroled in April. Here's what he had to say on his way out.

His favorite game was against the Golden State Warriors when Steve Kerr came in.

"It was on my birthday, and it was the most fun," said Hanks. "I came in at crunch time and hit two big threes that helped us win."

"Playing against those people was incredible, amazing. They weren't real to me; then I saw them in person, and they looked the same way they did on TV," said Hanks.

"Last season was the best because we beat the Golden State Warriors," said Hanks.

"Playing basketball gives me something positive to do. It helped me focus. Once on my agenda, it had to be done. It's a stress reliever."

Hanks has plans to keep the

positive attitude going.

"I'm going to school, and I'm going to network with the Golden State Warriors. "Mo" told me to keep working on my game. He said I could go somewhere," Hanks said, referring to Marreese "Mo" Speights, a Golden State Warriors power forward.

"I enjoyed my time at San Quentin. I appreciate all the love, cheers and haters. I salute everybody. Keep y'all heads up," said Hanks. "God has a blessing in store for everybody."

## Paroled From San Quentin After 28 Years Behind Bars

By Anouthinh Pangthong  
Journalism Guild Writer

After spending 28 years in prison for a crime he insists he did not commit, Roeling Adams was released on parole from San Quentin State Prison.

The parole board relied heavily on a declaration from the California Innocence Project supporting Adams' innocence claim. Gov. Jerry Brown did not overturn the parole, reported an Oct. 12 article in *Rocklin Today*. Adams was convicted in 1986

for a shooting, based on testimony from a witness, who later recanted his claim, the story reported.

The California Innocence Project said it receives up to 2,000 claims a year. It has earned the exoneration of 11 wrongfully convicted clients. It is a program of the California Western School of Law.

"One of the leading causes of wrongful conviction is misidentification," said Justin Brooks, director of the California Innocence Project.

# Juvenile Lifers Unprepared for Board Hearings

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

While some youthful offenders are finding new hope in getting out of prison, more are not found suitable for release or are unprepared for their board hearing.

Last year, legislation passed to allow inmates whose crimes were committed as minors to appear before the parole board after serving at least 15 years of their sentence.

From Jan. 1, 2014 through May 31, the board held 664 youth offender hearings, resulting in 189 grants, 410 denials, 63 stipulations to unsuitability, and two split votes that required referral to the full Board for further consideration. An additional 318 were scheduled during this time, but were waived, postponed, continued or canceled, according to court papers filed by the Attorney General of California.

Of the hearings that were held, juvenile offenders had a success rate of nearly 46 percent of being found suitable for parole. For all offenders, during this time period, only around 25 percent resulted in suitability, *California Lifer Newsletter* reported.

This spark of hope came from the efforts of those who believed in giving youths a second chance. California lawmakers began to "recognize that youthfulness both lessens a juvenile's moral culpability...as a youth matures into an adult and neurological development occurs, these individuals can become contributing members of society," SB260 stated.

The new law requires the Board of Parole Hearings to "give great weight to the hallmarks of youth" during parole

suitability hearings.

No two stories of young people who made terrible decisions are the same and three San Quentin inmates illustrate the variety of cases affected by SB260.

One is Jason Lile, 39, who committed his crime when he turned 17. He was sentenced to 65 years and four months for attempted murder-robbery.

"I was 19 when I came to prison...in Tracy. People were getting stabbed, robbed, guys getting shot trying to escape," Lile recalled. "The person I became in prison was harder, more stubborn, kind of. I found myself looking at things indifferently; things didn't matter.

"I started to cut ties with my friends and support network, because I didn't want to lie to them about going home soon. I was stuck in a box with nowhere to go," said Lile.

"When SB260 passed, I was not prepared at all. I never thought I would go before a board; I wasn't a lifer."

Lile was found unsuitable for parole during his first board hearing under SB260 and was given a seven-year denial on Feb. 3.

"I felt it was justified. I noticed that I wasn't insightful about my crime, myself, and I never thought about taking responsibility for my crime until SB260 came around," Lile said.

"My focus now is to stay out of trouble, attend self-help programs and continue to work on myself, and to spread the word to my friends who aren't lifers but are affected by the bill to get their act right, because there are

too many of us who are not prepared at all."

Lile hopes he would be granted an opportunity to go before the board next year.

**"In 2010, I was given a five-year denial during my third hearing for a lack of insight"**

Gregory Coates, 58, committed his crime in 1975 when he was 17 years old, and was convicted of first- and second-degree murder. He was sentenced to seven years to life.

After being incarcerated 41 years, Coates said in an interview, "I thought I was only going to serve 12-13 years and be released." His minimum eligibility release date was in 1985.

"I hadn't done many programs before I went to my first board hearing in 1981. The board got on me about my drinking and 115s (disciplinary infractions)," Coates said. "After that first board hearing, I didn't think there was any hope for me even though others were going home; most importantly, I didn't think I deserved to go home.

"It was this belief, along with my lack of taking responsibility for my crime, that got me denied so many times. I had never spoken to the parole commissioners about my crime; my lawyers always did the talking for me."

In 2011, Coates was given a 10-year denial on his 11<sup>th</sup> hear-

ing.

When SB260 became law, Coates said, "It gave me a lot of hope. I was seeing many young men and friends go home, I realized that it was time for me to wake up and talk about things that I was so ashamed of."

Coates was denied an appeal on his 10-year denial under Marsy's Law and is expected to go before his next parole hearing in the year 2020 when he is 65 years old.

Benjamin Obsuna, 39, was 17 when he was convicted of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 16 years to life.

Obsuna has been incarcerated for the past 23 years, and has gone to the board four times.

"I didn't know what I was getting into; no one was being found suitable. I didn't know how to prepare - I just kept a normal routine. I went to work, I went to the yard, and one day they called me into the board room. When I got denied, I went to play basketball," Obsuna said.

"In 2010, I was given a five-year denial during my third hearing for a lack of insight,

and my mom came to see me and asked me what 'lack of insight' meant. I couldn't tell her because I didn't know myself, which woke me up and it was right then that I made the decision to start over."

Obsuna credits his change and enlightenment to the people and groups that he found in San Quentin, including Criminal and Gang Members Anonymous.

"I was in a gang since I was 13 years old," Obsuna said. "I used to have a gang burn on my wrist; now it's covered with a peace sign."

Obsuna said he wanted to tell his story so that others will know that "change is good, and never give up hope; once you get out of the old belief system, it's going to be all good."

Obsuna was found suitable on March 25, 2015.

"These three stories exemplify those affected by SB260 and indicate the need for even more opportunity for prisoners to learn and grow through programming, which indicate the importance of peer support as well as external, educational, and volunteer support in helping youth offenders succeed," commented Karin Drucker, Kid CAT volunteer.

## High Teen Truancy Linked to Bullying

Bullying is a major problem in American schools, with many victims considering suicide, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

"Each day about 160,000 students miss school because of bullying or because of their fear of being bullied," reported *NoBullying.com*. "Children and teens who are considered 'different' from their peers are the most frequent targets of bullies.

"Special-needs students; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) students; students who are overweight and students who are perceived as 'weak' are the most likely targets of bullying."

### BULLYING

Bullying is defined as intentionally aggressive, usually repeated, verbal, social or physical behavior aimed at a specific person or group of people.

Although forms of bullying like harassment and hazing are considered criminal, in general, bullying alone is not illegal.

Those bullied by peers were more likely to consider suicide and even attempt it, according to the *Journal of Adolescent Health*. The relationship is often influenced by factors like depression and delinquency.

"If the bully comes from a home where fighting and violence is the order of the day, then he or she will see it as an acceptable behavior in the society. The same case happens to be true in schools where there is a lot of bullying happening," said an article on *NoBullying.com*.

About 61 percent of students surveyed by the Bureau of Justice linked school shootings with the perpetrator being physically abused at home, reported the Bureau of Justice.

"When a bully wants to become popular, it is understood that he will pick on the most unpopular kid, one who has for one reason or another been shunned by the peer group. The bully will reason that the peer group will applaud this anti-social behavior and he or she will then become popular at the expense of the poor victim," *NoBullying.com* stressed.

Students often said bullying boosts the social status and popularity of the perpetrator, according to a UCLA psychology study of 1,895 students at 11 Los Angeles middle schools.

### STUDY

According to the DHHS study:

1 in 3 students say they have experience being bullied.

1 in 10 teens drop out of school as a result.

Only 20-30 percent of students who are bullied tell adults or authorities about their situation.

40 percent of boys who were identified as bullies in middle and high school had been arrested three or more times before age of 30.

There are no federal laws in the United States that address bullying directly, the study reported. Forty-nine states have passed anti-bullying legislation since 1999; only the state of Montana is without any legislation.

—By John Lam

## The 'Hidden Victims'

### Children of Incarcerated Mothers

Children with incarcerated mothers are often referred to as "hidden victims," and are among the most at-risk population in the United States, a study reports.

"Children with incarcerated mothers are at heightened risk for attachment disturbance, leading to depression, anxiety, and other trauma-related stress," stated a report published by the *Columbia Social Work Review*.

The report found that the number of incarcerated women who have children has increased by 87 percent since 1990, with Black and Hispanic women representing the majority of those incarcerated.

"The prevailing societal assumption that incarcerated mothers are a negative influence on their children is inconsistent with, and unreflective of, an incarcerated woman's actual

role in the lives of her children, which may have been very positive," said Tanya Krupat, program director of the New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents at the Osborne Association.

Federal child-welfare laws designed to assist children of incarcerated parents have reportedly posed more obstacles than help for the youth.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) allows for parental rights to be terminated if a child resides in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, this can be problematic "because a typical sentence for an incarcerated parent is between 80 and 100 months," the Review stated.

"It is entirely plausible that a mother sentenced to three years as a first-time felony drug offender for selling \$10 worth of

drugs will face the real and disturbing prospect of permanently losing all rights to her children," states a study of Women in Prison by the Correctional Association of New York.

An alternative to incarcerating primary caregivers is a pilot program called the Drew House in Brownsville, New York. There women and their children live in their own apartments, and are provided a therapeutic environment with family therapist and employment specialists. More importantly, they avoid the traumatic impact of maternal separation on children, the Review states.

"To house a mother and two children for a year, it costs \$34,000, compared with \$129,000 for both incarceration and foster care," *The New York Times* reported.

—By John Lam

**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 male and female juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.**

# Prison HIV/AIDS Deaths Declined From 2001 to 2010

By Lee Jaspur  
Journalism Guild Writer

Deaths of prison inmates from HIV/AIDS have declined steadily from 2001 to 2010, according to a report published by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The report said that between 2001 and 2010, "the estimated number of inmates with HIV/AIDS declined by 16 percent, and the number of AIDS-related deaths in prison declined by 77 percent."

Findings in the report were based on data collected from 50 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons through the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Prisoner Statistics (NPS-1) and Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP).

The report also drew a com-

parison to the U.S. population overall and concluded that the rate of AIDS-related deaths for state prison inmates dropped below the rate for the U.S. general population.

Between 2001 and 2009, the AIDS-related death rate among state prisoners ages 15 to 54 declined from 22 deaths per 100,000 inmates to six per 100,000. The rate among that age group in the general population declined from nine per 100,000 to seven per 100,000, according to the report.

The report identified California as one of four states holding more than 1,000 inmates with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2010. California, Florida, New York and Texas accounted for 51 percent (9,492) of all state prisoners with HIV/AIDS in 2010.

The report also identified specific demographics in the affected population and AIDS-related deaths in state prisons declined among male inmates from 89 in 2009 to 69 in 2010; from 73 to 43 among black non-Hispanics; and from 87 to 60 among all state inmates ages 35 and older.

In a table showing all states and their individual numbers of HIV-positive or confirmed AIDS cases in custody by year-end 2010, California had 1,402 in 2008, 1,235 in 2009 and 1,098 in 2010. That is 0.8 percent of the custody population in 2008 and 0.7 percent in 2009 and 2010.

The report also showed the gender of this affected population to be mostly male at 1,146 in 2009 and 1,023 in 2010. Female inmates who were HIV-positive or AIDS infected were 89 in

2009 and 75 in 2010

AIDS-related deaths by demographic characteristics showed the largest affected group for this period to be black males between the ages 45-54.

## METHODOLOGY

The federal government began collecting National Prisoner Statistics (NPS-1), which primarily measures prison population movement, in 1926. The series comprises reports from the Departments of Corrections in 50 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

NPS-1 includes year-end counts of prisoners by jurisdiction, sex, race, Hispanic/Latino origin and admissions and releases during the year.

In 1991, the Bureau of Jus-

tice Statistics (BJS) began using NPS-1 to collect data on HIV and confirmed AIDS cases in prisons. BJS respondents indicated the circumstances under which inmates were tested for HIV and reported the number of inmates with HIV/AIDS in their custody, the report advised.

The report concluded with the rate of HIV/AIDS and AIDS-related deaths in prison. It stated that to calculate the estimated rate of HIV/AIDS among inmates in custody of state and federal prisons, the estimated year-end count of HIV/AIDS cases was divided by the year-end custody population for each year.

Per the DCRP, the number of AIDS-related deaths in state prisons was 310 in 2001 and 70 in 2010.

## Danny Glover Embraces The Men of San Quentin

*'Because I'm dyslexic, I used to be embarrassed to read in class'*

Continued from Page 1

around him. I was deeply touched by his compassion and his outlook on humanity. I feel he has outstanding human qualities that simply amazed me," said VOEG member Thomas "Tommy" Hobson.

VOEG instructors Bonnie Willis and Kashka Banjoko brought the actor to San Quentin's H Unit, with the special assistance of Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick.

As brother and sister, Willis and Banjoko are both longtime friends of Glover dating back many years.

After being greeted with handshakes and hugs, Glover sat in a small circle with VOEG members and opened himself up to conversation, as if he had known them all for years.

He discussed personal issues such as his battles with dyslexia, confronting and conquering fears, philosophical yoga, metaphorical wisdom, abolishing the death penalty, and how listening to John Coltrane and doing Pilates helped him play the role of a serial killer.

"I did a movie called 'Switchback' in 1995. I played a serial killer. To get into the role, I started doing Pilates. While doing Pilates, I would listen to 'Equinox' by John Coltrane. I began to gain full confidence in the role. To become the serial killer, I had to transform myself into character. I owned the moment," said Glover.

It was stories like this in which Glover shared his unorthodox way of script reading and becoming one with characters as techniques to compensate for being dyslexic. These methods, which he calls "my hidden secrets," enable him to connect with his fears and build confidence.

"Because I'm dyslexic, I used to be embarrassed to read

in class. To this day, I need to physically feel a book when I read. I need to physically experience a scene to memorize it," said Glover.

The methods employed by Glover to deal with his shortcomings fit in perfectly with the curriculum and techniques taught in the VOEG class, a program committed to transformation and social justice.

With "insight" as a guiding principle, VOEG members develop self-awareness skills to process their own shortcomings, such as effectively dealing with difficult emotions.

The development and use of such practices as mindful awareness, emotional intelligence and critical self-reflection can produce a change of heart in how a person reacts or responds to a situation.

The philosophy and methodology of VOEG encourages members to make better conscious choices before thinking, feeling and acting.

"One way to overcome our fears is to build confidence in self," said Glover.

"Even though I'm older with a hip and knee injury, I still try yoga. I do it because it builds my confidence to move normally."

Most famously known for his starring role in movies such as "The Color Purple" and "Lethal Weapon," Glover is less well known for his role in private life as a philanthropist, humanitarian, activist and advocate.

Glover is an ambassador for UNICEF and a leading advocate in promoting the abolition of the death penalty in the United States.

"I met Danny 47 years ago while we were both students at San Francisco State. We were both part of a Black Studies program – the first in the country at any university," said Banjoko.

His work on-screen and off screen is as impressive as is



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick and Actor Danny Glover

his personality.

"Danny Glover is a great inspiration for me. The things he taught me about overcoming fears is something I'll always remember," said VOEG member Maurice Gipson.

Glover told VOEG members that he is no stranger to the penal system.

"I grew up in the Army Street projects in San Francis-

co... I have brothers who've been to prison before. I remember my mother use to get mad when she had to miss church on Sundays to go visit my brothers in Vacaville and Tracy (both state prisons)," said Glover.

VOEG members praised Glover's humbleness, honesty and his friendly next-door-neighbor demeanor. "He was

surprisingly down-to-earth," said VOEG member DiJon Newton.

"It is a very heartwarming experience to be friends with him," said Bonnie Willis. "He is very gracious. He is very magnanimous. He is so real. He'll walk in your house and go straight to the refrigerator talking about, 'what y'all got to eat in here?'"

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

# Public Gets Rare Glimpse of Art in Prison

## Four-Day Conference Attracts More Than 75 Attendees



Viewers inspect model city "Garciville" named in memory of art teacher Rene Garcia



Michael Williams talking art to an out-of-state visitor about the San Francisco program when it shifted sessions to San Quentin

**By Tommy Winfrey**  
Art Editor

On June 19 San Quentin was transformed into an international art gallery as part of a four-day art conference held primarily at the University of San Francisco on "Arts in Corrections – Opportunities for Justice and Rehabilitation." More than 75 of the conference attendees came to the prison to hear performing artists read poetry and to view visual arts.

The four-day conference that began on June 16 and culminated in the art show at San Quentin was presented by the William James Association – Prison Arts Project, the California Lawyers for the Arts, and hosted at the University of San Francisco.

As visitors entered the inner prison plaza they were split into two groups. Half of the guests were shepherded into the chapel to view 25 pieces of art created by men incarcerated in San Quentin. The art hung on easels arranged down the aisles of the chapel leading to the stage.

On stage, performance artists from the restorative justice-based Artistic Ensemble gave

short presentations of pieces from a larger work titled "Waterline."

One observer remarked, "The Ensemble stole the show," with Nythell "Nate" Collins depicting a prisoner trapped inside a cast of performers who represented an eight by twelve cell.

Collins screamed, "eight by twelve," and the performers closed in on him, sending the message that prison can be a closed-in life.

Poets also read work that they wrote in the poetry workshop, "The Emergency for Emerging Forms of Life." The workshop, led by Stephen Novotny and Annie Rovzar Steven, meets every Sunday night in the art studio at San Quentin.

"I went to the University of San Francisco. When I was there as an undergraduate I had great mentors," said Novotny, who is now paying it forward to the prisoners he teaches.

Dennis Crookes, a participant in the poetry workshop who normally paints to express his artistic talents, said, "Stephen and Annie got me writing surreal poetry."

The rest of the 75 guests split up and took turns seeing

the legendary Alfredo Santos' murals that were painted in the South Dining Hall during the 1950s, and visiting the art studio where they were greeted by prison artists.

The art studio exhibits ranged from graphite and pencil drawings to acrylic and oil paintings on canvas. An attention-getter was a mural being painted on huge wooden panels for the North Dining Hall. The mural depicts a fantasy cityscape imagined by artist Scott McKinstry.

The artists answered many questions about their art pieces. One of the visitors became so overwhelmed by their stories that she left in tears.

After about an hour, the groups viewing the art studio, the murals and the art show in the chapel switched tours – giving every visitor a complete look at the entire art community in San Quentin.

The art show within the walls of the prison was the culmination of the four-day art conference.

On June 16, an optional pre-conference training day was offered to attendees. Experienced practitioners taught workshops

to those who were new in the fields of dance, theater, music, literary and visual arts. The training also discussed navigating the art world inside of a prison.

Former San Quentin prisoner Troy Williams was a member of the panel that discussed the "Nuts and Bolts of Working in Prison."

The next day featured talks from people who are involved in teaching art in prison. Some of the featured speakers included San Quentin's Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick and the Sheriff of San Francisco County, Ross Mirkarimi. Opening remarks for the conference were presented by William James Association's Executive Director Laurie Brooks, and the California Lawyers for the Arts' Executive Director Alma Robinson.

On June 18, guests were presented with research on art in corrections and evaluations done by professionals such as Larry Brewster, Ph.D., from the University of San Francisco.

Later in the day, Sonya Shah, Justice Program Director for the Prison Insight Project, led a restorative justice seminar.

That evening former San Quentin prisoners Watani Stiner and Henry Frank served on an artist panel moderated by Carol Newborg from the William James Association.

On the last day of the conference, Millicent Tidwell, Director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, spoke on the topic, "Where do we go from here?"

The keynote speaker for the day was California Senator Loni Hancock, chair of the Senate Public Safety Committee.

Then at 11 a.m., the 75 visitors who had been cleared to enter San Quentin got on a bus and headed for the prison.

Prisoner Richie Morris summed up the whole point that the conference was trying to make when he told the crowd in the chapel, "We're a family. There are days when we're dysfunctional, but the tension is necessary. I know that words are powerful. After 30 years in prison I can be more than a convict. I am a human being and I recognize these guys as brothers."

–Juan Haines  
contributed to this story



Bruce Fowler explains his art to an admirer who made the trip to see the San Quentin exhibits.



Philip Melendez tells visitors about the benefits of the art program at San Quentin

# Mass Incarceration: From ROOTS' Perspective

Continued from Page 1

mates.

Delegates came from about 60 organizations including California state policy makers, community, labor and grant-funding organizations.

"I think we share a future together with the currently and formally incarcerated in California," said Assemblyman Robert Bonta, D-Oakland.

"So we need to take the steps for a better future together. So how are we going to move forward together? I hope to have a hand in charting that path with other like-minded folks."

San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim said she is looking for a better solution than building more jail space. "I'm glad to come to San Quentin and hear from the men to see what I can do as a policy-maker," said Kim.

Jim Oddie, an Alameda City Council member, also attended.

ROOTS members recommended Senate Bill 261 and the Second Chance Initiative for stemming mass incarceration.

"What SB 261 does is take into consideration a person's



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Eddy Zheng explains the setting of a prison yard and the dynamics of its culture

tated first-time offenders with lengthy sentences a chance to petition the court for release. (For more information about the Second Chance Initiative, go to: [www.change.org/petitions/support-2nd-chance-initiative](http://www.change.org/petitions/support-2nd-chance-initiative)).

Assemblyman Bonta noted, "Our recidivism rates are way too high. If we do the same

opened the conference with these words: "When I see you, I see me, because you are a reflection of me."

Prisoner John Wang said, "I read in the Chinese World Journal about how Eddy made positive changes to get out of prison and how he kept his word to help the community. He's my role model now."

Charlie Thao, Anouthinh Pangthong, Son Nguyen, Kamsan Soun, David Lee, Zitsue Lee and Syyen Hong.

"My culture helped shine light on a non-violent path in prison," Chung Kao said while performing Tai Chi movements. "I was lost swimming in an ocean of inner conflict. Only focus, tenacity and faith have returned me to center, time and again."

After hearing the men's stories, Supervisor Kim said, "The level of blunt honesty is extraordinary."

You commented, "Understanding the next person tears down the walls of racism. That's why it's important ROOTS be put in other institutions and schools. We're not as different as we look. It's important to understand what happened to our parents."

Assemblyman Bonta stated, "I'm seeing the ROOTS program work up close and personal. Seeing the impact on some of the men puts them on a road to transformation and change and taking new and different steps. How can we reproduce this program? We need to take advantage of California Recidivism Reduction funds. Funds need to be spent on programs that work and that spur transformation, not on those that don't."

ROOTS member Philip Melendez closed with these words: "Accountability is a driving force to make the changes in our lives. Once an offender truly realizes the harm that he caused, it is unlikely he will ever harm anyone again."

"What would have helped us to not to have committed our crimes – many of us agree: mentorship."

"We weren't born armed and dangerous. Are we criminals, monsters or great people? I say we are human beings who made mistakes. The more lifers that go home, the more the crime will go down."

"If you have more rehabilitation, then you release better people back into society. All this can be done without compromising public safety."

"SB 261 and Second Chance are waiting in the wings to help chip at the problem."

ROOTS sponsors Zheng, Ben Wang and Kasi Chakravartula helped organize the conference that continued the next day with a fundraising event and workshop.

"This was a collective effort of six API, Asian Pacific Islanders organization communities that are acknowledging there is a crisis in our community around incarceration and deportation," said Chakravartula.

The other organizing groups



Photo by Sam Hearnes

S.F. Supervisor Jane Kim

were: Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Asian Prisoner Support Committee, National Education Association and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center.

Delegates came to the June 26 event from Raleigh, NC, New Orleans, Philadelphia, New York City, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"If you want policy to change, talk to your family members, educate people. Get them to vote. Things change from the ground up. I am going to talk to people about it because of what you educated me today," said delegate Duc Ta.

Professor Roger Chung, a ROOTS sponsor, said of the workshop: "People who attended learned that we can transform the world, and this work cannot be done without including the folks inside."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Zitsue Lee talks about immigration policy reforms

age when committing a crime," said ROOTS member Juan Meza. "Zero tolerance in the judicial system puts people away forever, no matter what age."

"Our mentality changes (in prison) because we grow up. Juveniles try things adults won't do. SB 261 will give an adult a chance to make the case that he can contribute to society," said Meza.

Similarly, the Second Chance Initiative would give rehabili-

thing and the data is the same, then we are the ones as policy-makers who are making the mistake by not changing and adjusting."

Inside organizer Phoeun You said, "I'm Cambodian-born and escaped during genocide (war)," said You. "My war-traumatized parents ... were impacted by being displaced but didn't show it... Look into the immigration laws; change them."

Eddy Zheng, an organizer,

Keynote speaker Uch spoke against deporting immigrants. He spent four years in a Washington state prison, then faced life in an immigration jail and potential deportation.

"You made poor choices, but you don't deserve to be deported. You should have the choice to stay with your family," Uch said.

Also speaking were ROOTS members Wilson Chen, Eusebio Gonzalez, Nick Lopez,



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Somsak Uppasay addressing the importance of community support



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Assemblyman Robert Bonta, ROOTS Graduate Joe Hancock and Alameda City Council member Jim Oddie

# New SQ Group Finds Its Roots in History

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

The shy and unassuming inmate Sa Tran told a packed room of spectators that he couldn't believe he was standing before them and giving a speech.

"My parents taught me very well; they never once taught me to hate or dislike any person, let alone another race/ethnicity."

Nevertheless, Tran told the audience the environment in which he grew up made him prejudiced and narrow-minded.

"These tendencies correlate directly from a lack of sociality with other races/ethnicities," he said.

Tran joined (Restoring Our Original True Selves) ROOTS last year along with someone he knew of another race, Nick Lopez.

"In ROOTS, we shared our life stories, and when I heard his life story, it completely changed me as a person," Tran said. "It touched me so much because it hit home. I, too, experienced pretty much the very



Photo by Sam Hearnes

## ROOTS Graduate Satinder Singh

same thing."

Tran is serving a sentence of 23 years to life for attempted murder and has been incarcerated for two decades.

The guiding principal of ROOTS, "No History; No Self; Know History; Know Self," is "toward developing self-awareness and understanding how to be a productive member of one's community," said

Chairman Phoeun You.

In 2003, Eddy Zheng, Mike Ngo and Rico Riemedio (then lifers at San Quentin), wanted to develop Asian American Ethnic Studies at San Quentin. Their vision was to provide the fast-growing Asian community inside prison with education about Asian history.

After 10 years of struggling, the ROOTS program was established. It is a collaboration of concerned community members geared to help people identify their history and understand themselves.

"I requested to get in the class to learn more about Asian culture," said Joe Hancock, the only African-American in the class. "In general African-Americans don't have an authentic culture."

Hancock has been incarcerated for more than 18 years and has been at San Quentin for eight years. He works in the vocational machine shop, participates in Restorative Justice, Non-Violent Communications and Alliance for Change. He also regularly attends NA/AA. He is currently enrolled in Addiction Recovery Counseling. He has graduated from Coastline College with a business certificate. Hancock qualifies for pending legislation that would allow him to appear before the parole board, since he committed his offense before age 23.

Historically, California prisons have been divided by race. San Quentin is no different.

On the day of the graduation from the 10-month program, the Asian community invited all races to meet with them to break bread as a community. Everyone was given a plate of food.

"In all my years of incarceration, I never witnessed the black population doing something like that," said Hancock. "It was good to see all the races come together. More stuff like that needs to take place."

ROOTS participant Reggie Hola said, "We want people to feel at home. We want everyone to feel that ROOTS is for everyone."

Hola explained that this sentiment of opening up comes from *mana*, which is "the spirit of welcome from our ancestors," he said.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Guest and prisoners listen to a lecture about transformation, cultural struggles and social change

tors," he said. "It's something that we all carry, it's in our character, and mannerism. It comes from bonding."

Pakistani Adnan Khan said that his parents immigrated to the U.S. in 1980. Khan regularly visits the Asian Area on the Lower Yard.

Explaining the area, Khan said, "There's no label; it's the spot; the neighborhood." Adding, "There's Indian, Pakistan, Laos, Cambodian, Vietnam, Japanese, Philippines, Samoan, Tongan, Fiji, Hawaiian, Hmong, Mien, China, there's so many more."

"There's a lot of support there, laughing and joking, sharing of material things, and self. I see a lot of selfless acts," Khan said.

Khan said in ROOTS he learned about intergenerational trauma.

"It's like PTSD that goes to the childhood. I grew up in a large family who has been through a lot of war. The rage that my family suffers, I can now understand what they went through."

The ROOTS curriculum include classes on Asian-Pacific Islander history and culture, healing practices, intergen-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

## ROOTS Graduate Anouthinh Pangthong

eration trauma, cultural masculinity and stigmas, immigration and reentry, sharing circles, and the nonviolence practices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In addition, the students of ROOTS learn about discrimination and racism, LGBTQ awareness and public speaking. Graduates of the program are encouraged to stay on as teachers and facilitators for the newcomers to ROOTS.

## ROOTS 2015 Graduates

- Upumoni Ama
- Quoc Chau
- Damon Cooke
- Rafael Cuevas
- Eduardo Delapena
- Elijah Fejeran
- Eusebio Gonzalez
- Joseph Hancock
- Syyen Hong
- Chnug Kao
- Zhuo Liu
- Philip Melendez
- Juan Meza
- Benjamin Obsuna
- Anouthinh Pangthong
- Satinder Singh
- Kamsan Suon
- Somsak Uppasay
- Vong Vue
- Romeo Bacos
- Jason Lile
- Jose Segura
- Armando Garcia
- Minh Tran
- Lam Le



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Chung Kao demonstrates the art of Tai Chi



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Native Hawaiian spiritual group performs a traditional dance to bring hope

# Arts & Entertainment

## Messages From Around the World

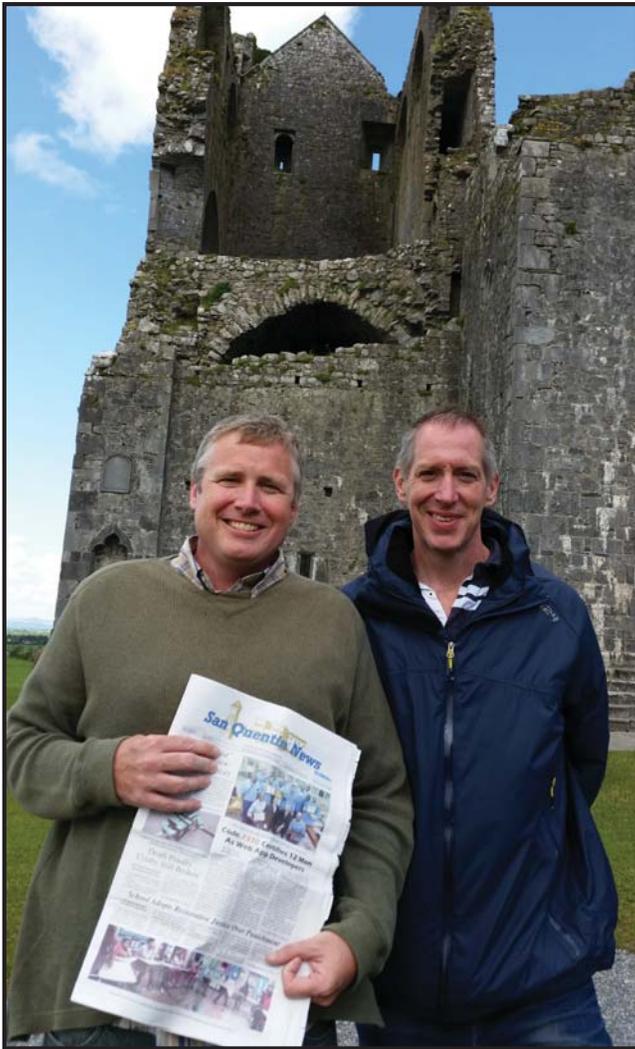


Photo by Dr. S. Cooley

Paul Donlan and Brendan Craughwell holding a *San Quentin News* paper at the Rock of Cashel, also known as St. Patrick's Rock in Tipperary, Ireland



File Photo

Inspector General Bob Barton with a SQN paper at the Kigali Memorial Centre in Rwanda, where the remains of about 258,000 genocide victims have been laid to rest

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

### Sudoku Corner

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

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

### Complete This Puzzle and Win a Prize!

Huggie The Pirate had 27 crew members under his command on his ship, the Black Diamond Donut. He had less prisoners than that in the hold. One stormy night while swabbing the deck, half of them were staving so they decided to jump overboard, leaving the ship exactly 15 percent less occupied than it was before. How many prisoners escaped?

The Answer to Last Months Trivia:  $16 \div 2 - 3 + 1 = 6$

The winner to last Month's puzzle is Todd Williams

Congratulation to J. Wang, E. Vicks and A. Judice for also getting last month's puzzle correct.

#### 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 placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.

The prize is 2 Granola Bars. Prize will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

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

### Snippets

Russia considers a kiss from the Tsar the highest sign of recognition.

A drizzle is drops of rain that is less than half a millimeter.

In its first 100 years, ballet was performed entirely by all male courtiers, some considered this as amateur entertainment.

Not a Picasso! Yes, artist Pablo Picasso was once so poor that he stayed warm by burning some of his own drawings.

Barred from marriage in 270 AD, Roman emperor Claudius II thought that married men made bad soldiers. Bishop Valentine disregarded the emperor's decree and continued to marry young lovers in secret until he was discovered and sentenced to death.

One of the longest serving heads of state is Fidel Castro. He is the world's third longest-serving head of state after the Queen of Britain and the King of Thailand.

Wear and tear Blue Note denim jeans were invented in San Francisco during the gold rush era for the miners.

# Sunday's Best and a Special Vest

By Larry Stiner Jr.  
Contributing Writer

## An 'OG's' Perspective

Do you recall the last time you ventured into a house of worship? Remember how that strong feeling of comfort embraced you as you walked through those church doors, briefly leaving the chaos and danger of everyday life behind you? At ease, you exhaled and allowed your spirit to be swept up by the angelic voices of the robe-wearing choir members as you sought out the perfect seat.

Upon the pew, you sat and glanced around to take in the sight of smiling men, women and children all dressed up in their Sunday's best and waiting patiently to hear the pastor preach the word of God. Always powerful, the weekly message incorporated words of

peace, love and acceptance.

Now imagine closing your eyes and bowing your head to pray. And just before you can say "Amen," evil strikes: BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

Sadly, a scene like this actually played out during a recent Bible study session taking place in a historic black church located in Charleston, South Carolina. On a Wednesday evening, June 17, 2015, a young white male opened fire on a group of black church members who had welcomed him into their perceived sanctuary to join them in studying the Scriptures. Mercilessly, he pumped bullets

into innocent bodies, reloaded and pumped more bullets into the same bodies as if he wanted everyone to die twice.

Finally, the gunman stood over one of three surviving witnesses and made a racially inflammatory remark before exiting the church.

With nine people dead, including the pastor, and a killer on the loose, news of the massacre quickly spread. Soon, the shooter was in custody and details surrounding this unbelievable tragedy began to emerge.

I was both sad and mad at once and nothing has changed as I gauge my feelings today.

Once again, I find myself in

the midst of battling emotions. I am saddened by the unnecessary loss of such beautiful and productive lives. I feel deep sorrow for the families and friends of the deceased.

Moreover, my heart hurts for the black community as we have had to deal with so much pain in recent weeks, months and years. At the same time, the level of my fury remains high.

I am angry that a coward would commit such a horrendous crime out of pure hatred for a group of a different color. I am angry that certain media members and politicians initially did all they could to avoid calling this a hate crime and an act of domestic terrorism.

I am angry that I live in a world where racism keeps spearheading the murder of a people who have been in the crosshairs of America's rifle for more than four centuries.

And then there is that confederate flag. I am angry that even in the wake of such a tragic event, that symbol of slavery and hate was still flying.

Yes I am angry but I also understand that action is needed to change things. Perhaps I should visit a church in honor of those nine victims. Perhaps I should bow my head in a house of worship and pray even stronger for peace, love and acceptance.

And if I do choose to go that route, you can bet I'll have a bulletproof vest on under my Sunday suit and I'll be praying with one eye open...just in case I need to stand my ground.

# Love, Betrayal and Facing the Death Penalty

## BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

I breezed through the novella *A Trial for Grace*, by Jessica Pishko (2015) in just a couple of days. It was an engaging read, a look at the life of a young legal professional who fell in love with a married man and then was sucked into his fraudulent world.

The protagonist, Claire Dunning, had to make a choice, commit to Jack and his world of scams or turn over incriminating evidence against him to the feds.

In the end, she made a sensible choice; she saved her skin and moved on.

Claire's desire to get away from the high-paced life of New York City to a small town in North Carolina seemed the perfect setting for starting over and making amends.

However, adjusting to a new law firm, tackling death pen-

alty cases, created a completely different life for Claire.

Her first client, Grace Delores, was found guilty of killing her child, and with her execution looming, Claire had to find some way to stop it.

When figuring out her relationship with Grace, Claire saw things like this:

The truth is the guilty make better clients: their memories are more exact, even if they are lies. The innocent are unable to explain themselves, lost in a terrible fantasy that someone else imagined for them.

Getting this truth from Pishko's lawyer-like mind shows the author's ability to create unpredictable complexity inside the mind of a character, which adds to believability.

I have the feeling that the richly developed characters in *A Trial for Grace* are not finished telling their story. This leaves me wondering if Pishko

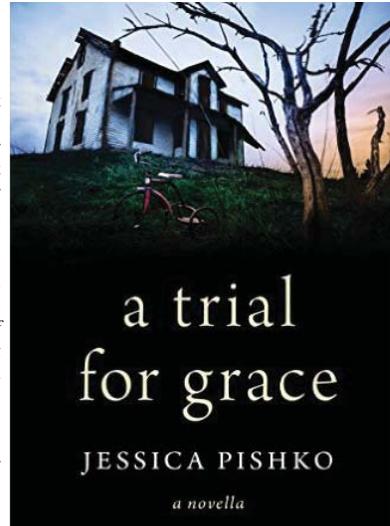
did this on purpose.

As an example, the quickness getting to the point when Claire meets her daughter makes me want to know what her childhood was like and what it means to be adopted.

The tall guy with a weather-beaten face, dressed as if for outdoor work is Henderson and the law firm's investigator. He has figured Claire out, which draws her close to him.

What was Henderson's "figuring out" process and why is Claire attracted to this characteristic?

What makes a story good is whether the author satisfies me with its arc, as well as leaving me with an unambiguous feeling about what really happened. I don't just like neatly



friendly to her — something that might really be craved by a condemned person?

For me, there are similarities in *A Trial for Grace* to David Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars*, (1995), in that both stories address flaws in the criminal justice system and both offer readers realistic insight into what it means to fight for someone trapped inside the law who could be subjected to the death penalty.

In *Trial for Grace*, you get this perspective from a lawyer while in *Snow Falling on Cedars* it comes from a journalist.

Nevertheless, the common thread — that the system is flawed — is portrayed in both novels.

I would recommend *A Trial for Grace* mainly because of Pishko's ability to tell a complex story from the perspective of a character who thinks about her mistakes — as well as flaws in the justice system — and who struggles with defining the degree of guilt that warrants the death penalty.

# Would You Sacrifice Yourself for the Greater Good of Mankind?

By S. Q. Reviews

Director Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* poses a question: what is more important, survival of an individual or survival of the species?

The earth is becoming uninhabitable. Continued existence hinges on finding a new planet and figuring out how to propel a colony-sized space station past escape velocity.

In preparation for humanity's exodus, Joseph Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) and Amelia Brand (Anne Hathaway) lead a team of scientists on a mission to three galaxies to find humanity's next home.

Accepting the task means Cooper must leave behind his children. A promise to his daughter (Ellen Burstyn) elevates Nolan's film from an adventure about human survival to a story about the survival of a daughter's love for her absent

## MOVIE REVIEW

father.

When the members of S.Q. Reviews meet in the lot outside the Education Building in front of the *San Quentin News* room, we relate to this theme of a love that transcends time and space.

"*Interstellar* makes a great argument for the power of love," Emile DeWeaver says. "I generally think of love as a chemical response that perpetuates evolution, but I loved Dr. Brand's response to that idea. She said, 'Then why do we love dead people? What evolutionary purpose does that serve?' Love is an observable phenomenon that transcends time and space. We get a lot of infantilizing movies in prison, so it felt great to watch something complex for adults."

Juan Meza didn't like the choices the protagonist made

concerning fatherhood. DeWeaver poses a question: what would Meza tell his daughter after a 20-year absence? Our circle is silent while Meza thinks. We all ache with the decades we've been absent from our children.

"If I had a chance to be out and talk to my daughter, I'd say..." Meza shakes his head, searching for words. "I'd tell her it's not her fault that I left. Had I known that she existed, I would have changed my ways because she is that important to me."

"I missed my sons' lives," Thomas says. "There's no excuse or way to make up for that. There is nothing I can say, so I wouldn't say anything. All I can do is do what I can to show how much I love them."

Meza leans forward in his seat, shaking his head. "No.

There are certain things that your child wants to hear no matter how old they are. You have to say it."

"There's power in words," DeWeaver says "I grew up in an unstable environment that made me feel insecure all the time. I need to hear the unspoken, or I can never be sure it's actually there."

Jonathan Chiu is our quiet member. Thomas turns to him, determined to get Chiu on the record.

Cooper left Earth because the planet wouldn't survive for another two generations. For Chiu, one generation with his daughter is enough of a legacy.

"Knowing that she would live to an old age, I would have

stayed on the planet with my daughter," Chiu says.

We rated *Interstellar* 4 dinner cookies out of 5.

Rahsaan Thomas, Emile DeWeaver, Juan Meza and Jonathan Chiu contributed to this story.



# Theological Seminary Honors 15 Graduates at Fourth Annual Event



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate Kevin Carr is overwhelmed and blessed

Continued from Page 1

"I am very humbled and grateful to have gotten the opportunity partaking in the seminary," said Dirk Fauria. "I'm reminded that just as throughout Biblical history, it was men and women of God who were obedient to the call of God on their lives and to faithfully and fearlessly pass on the great news of God's redemptive plan of salvation."

Billy Dooley added, "I found myself lost and in trouble but never knew that God was guiding me to gain knowledge in Golden Gate."

"What a wonderful day this is for the graduating students," Chaplain Mardi Jackson said in the opening ceremonies on June 19.

Amazing Grace was sung by Darryl Hill Sr.

"These graduates will be going out and will bring spiritual words to the neighborhood," said Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick.

Graduates' comments: "God's hand is on San Quentin with all these opportunities," said Juan Arballo. "I've been able to sit under very challenging teachers that have helped me guide my life

to better develop the calling has for my life."

"I never thought my life would be changed in a way that really matters," said Timothy Young. "Always remember, we are never alone in our life's journey. God is with us. God Bless."

"This journey has been one filled with joy and spiritual insight. Praise the Lord," said Frank Taylor.

"Almost anyone can start good, but you must have longevity to continue. Accept the vulnerability you may have to endure," said Dr. Rick Durst, professor of Historical Theology.

***"This journey has been one filled with joy and spiritual insight. Praise the Lord"***

In attendance was seminary President Dr. Jeff Iorg.

"God has given me a passion for getting the Gospel to every person," Iorg's statement in the seminary's student catalog reads. "As a pastor, church planter, and denominational leader in a mission setting, I have committed my life to making the Gospel available to every person in every place."

Christian Ministries diplo-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and H. Hemphill



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and J. King



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and F. Taylor



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and T. Capbell

mas were awarded to Arballo, Young, Carr, Dooley, Fauria, Hill, Pedro Cruz, Fanon Figgers, Frederick Gaines, Michael Hampton, Antoine Watie, Trenton Capbell, Harry Hemphill and James King.

Frank Taylor was awarded a Theology diploma.

"Today is a monumental moment not only for me but for my family," Carr said. "The pivotal moment for me was to see my 85-year-old grandmother come through those chapel doors (in a wheelchair). To see her smiling along with my aunt and two cousins brought me so much joy, honor and gratitude. My goal is to continue in whatever capacity I'm needed while managing a Christian transitional home upon my release."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and B. Dooley



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and T. Young



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and F. Figgers



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and M. Hampton



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and J. Arballo



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate Pedro Cruz proudly shares his joy with family



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate F. Gaines is all smiles enjoying his family



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate Antoine Watie is surrounded by family love

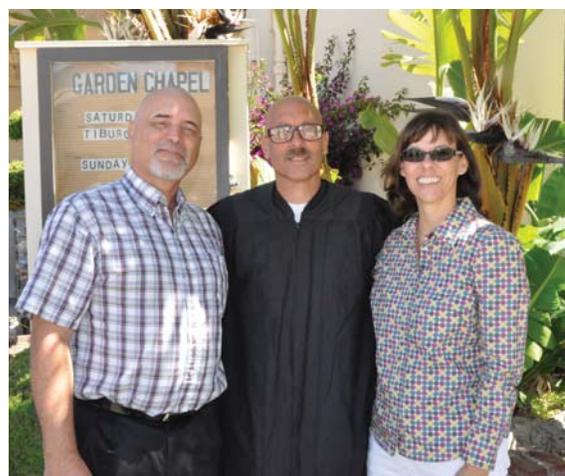


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate Dirk Fauria celebrates with his family

# Study Urges Prisons to Improve Visitations to Cut Recidivism

## Many Released Offenders Rely on Families and Friends for Employment Opportunities

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Prisons should take steps to improve inmate visitation, which significantly reduces recidivism, a university study concludes.

"Revising visitation policies to make them more 'visitor friendly' may represent a

relatively low cost, potentially high benefit measure that correctional systems could take to help ease the burden of prison overcrowding and budget deficits," said the report. It was authored by Grant Duwe and Valerie Clark on behalf of the Department of Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Visits from siblings, in-laws, fathers and clergy showed to be the most beneficial in reducing recidivism, the report said.

### STUDY

The study was conducted among 16,420 offenders released from Minnesota pris-

ons between 2003 and 2007 and 7,000 Florida inmates serving a minimum sentence of one year.

Researchers reported that visits from family and friends provide a means of establishing, maintaining and enhancing social support networks.

The strengthening of these social bonds is important because many released offenders rely on families and friends for employment opportunities, financial assistance and housing.

However, studies reveal that the policies and practices of prisons often impede visitation for three major reasons.

First, most prisons are located in rural areas. Since many prisoners come from poverty, their families cannot typically afford to travel to distant prisons.

Second, few prison visiting programs are designated to encourage visits. Many prisons perform background checks on potential visitors, and anyone with a criminal record is usually barred from visiting. Also, visiting hours are usually limited to a few hours and are only allowed on certain days.

Third, visiting programs can have poor service and uncomfortable settings. Families often have to wait long hours in line to get processed in with no rest rooms or vending ma-

chines and with poor air circulation.

### VISITS

During visits inmates and their visitors are closely watched and allowed little, if any, physical contact.

A 2008 study of Florida prisoners suggested that prisons can foster better visitation by implementing the following:

- Place inmates in facilities nearest to their home communities as possible
- Encourage community service agencies and organizations to visit inmates
- Ensure parking is available for visitors
- Expand visiting hours to evenings and weekends to accommodate visitors who are employed or have to travel long distances
- Decrease bureaucratic barriers to visitation
- Increase the cultural sensitivity of prison staff members
- Make sure that visitation rooms are clean, comfortable and hospitable.

Overall, research also suggests that correctional programming tends to be more effective when there is a continuum of care or service delivery from the prison to the community, the report noted.

# California Improves Discipline Policies for the Mentally Ill

## Change Prompted by Judge's Ruling That Former Process Was Unconstitutional

By Nathan Hall  
Journalism Guild Writer

California has changed policies to improve treatment for mentally ill inmates, officials have announced. The action is in response to a federal court order.

"This is a very significant reform of the disciplinary process for prisoners with mental illness," said Michael Bien, an attorney for the mentally ill prisoners who brought the legal action.

The change means mentally ill inmates who create prob-

lems will get counseling rather than going automatically to isolation cells or staying in prison longer.

The alternative treatment program was implemented after a federal judge ruled a year ago that its current procedure was unconstitutional and violated protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton acted after the release of video made by correctional officers, showing guards pumping pepper spray into cells of mentally ill inmates, some screaming and

delirious. The tactic was used on one inmate who refused to take his medication.

Court-appointed monitor Matthew Lopez found that for more than seven years the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation failed to follow court-directed policy on evaluating mentally ill inmates.

Bien credited CDCR Secretary Jeffrey Beard for making policy changes without waiting for another court order. In August the prisons agreed to create specialized housing and provide more treatment for mentally ill inmates.

# 24 Graduate From Centerforce Peer Health Education Class

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Twenty four inmates graduated in June from Centerforce's 12-week Peer Health Education training.

There were two classes of 12 men; one on Tuesday, the other on Thursday. Both completed training on subjects such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), various forms of Hepatitis A, B and C, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

According to Angel Falcone-Alvarez, an inmate Peer Health Educator for five years, other topics covered during the classes were personal health values, cultural humility, how individuals change behavior and communication skills.

"I got a more clear understanding of STDs, STI and HIV," said Rodney Goldson. "I highly recommend the class so people will have a better understanding of HIV/AIDS and not have a phobia about it." Upon his release he says he will work with a minorities AIDS project in the Los Angeles community.

Jessica Osorio, Peer Health Education Program Supervisor, said this was her fifth graduation, adding that because both classes were smaller, it helped everyone get comfortable with each other.

"We were able to get more in-depth," said Osorio. "The questions and topics we cover are driven by the concerns of the men in blue. It gives them a lot of information they can relay to their friends and families in the community."

Osorio said several Peer Health Educators have been released from prison and continue



Peer Health Educator Jessica Osorio and Dr. Julie Lifshay

Photo by Nigel Poor

to educate, "and that's always a good thing to see."

Keeping with training tradition, class participants were encouraged to continue to stay abreast of health issues and to make good use of the knowledge they acquired.

"This is one of the best certificates I ever received. It has my full name on it," said Donald Walker. "I never knew there were two types of tuberculosis." He said that he also learned about HIV/AIDS and about different categories of germs.

During each graduation ceremony, there is a ritual where the men form a circle, take a ball of string and toss it to a classmate on the other side of the circle. Each man then wraps it around his hand three times as they say, "Luz, vida, esperanza," (which means: light, life, hope) and share an experience or something they learned during the 12

weeks.

The process is repeated until they form a web in the center of the circle symbolizing their bond and common humanity.

"From the outside looking in, I see that participation is vital to help others including myself," said Joel Moore, 29, an inmate volunteer Peer Health Educator (PHE) who helps with logistics and other details.

Walter "OT" Johnson has been a PHE for one year. He said he completed the training in 2012. "I was amazed at how much influence the guys in blue had on the class."

This was inmate Tommy Ross Shakur's second graduation as a PHE. He said during the class there was a misconception about the number of inmates with hepatitis. "In this class they were engaging with their participation. Some guys challenged the education but that

was OK."

"Centerforce is awesome," said Falcone-Alvarez. Like his colleagues he said he recommends all inmates take time to learn what the program has to offer.

"The level of intellect and curiosity was different (in these classes). They asked important questions," said Lonnie Morris, who has been a PHE for 10 years. He has seen hundreds of men graduate from the program.

According to Osorio, PHEs are currently helping to coordinate the World AIDS Day event to be held at San Quentin in December to provide education on the state of HIV/AIDS. She said there will be a ceremony in the Protestant Chapel with outside guests and community groups.

Centerforce is one of the longest running groups at San Quentin, founded in 1975.

For more than 16 years, Centerforce has provided its peer education class at San Quentin. It also provides parolees with housing referrals, links individuals with chronic illnesses to transitional case management providers and assists with education and employment goals.

Centerforce is a nonprofit organization funded by donations and grants. It is a primary sponsor of the Annual Health Fair at San Quentin along with TRUST and the Alameda County Public Health Department.

At San Quentin, Centerforce is led under the direction of Dr. Julie Lifshay, Health and Special Projects Manager.

### The June Peer Health Education graduates are:

**Thurs., June 11, 2015**

**Robbie Bennett  
Russell Bowden  
Reginald Cooper  
Nathan Hall  
Frank Hicks  
Christopher Markham  
Richard Mayer  
Nathan McKinney  
Robert Ortiz  
Gustavo Pureco  
Maurice Reed  
Robert Robbins**

**Tues., June 16, 2015**

**Guadalupe Aranda  
Robert Craig  
Ronell Draper  
Louis Hunter  
Rodney Goldson  
Lamone Jones  
Joseph Krauter  
James Parker  
Lionel Scott  
Donald Thompson  
Donald Walker  
Leroy Williams**

# Rap Music and the Influence it Has on Society

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

What kind of influence does rap music have? Is it just entertainment, politically driven or negative motivation? The Yard Talk panel discussed these issues, and their answers were mixed.

**J. “Killa Clown” Medvin**, 30, is a Caucasian rapper from Santa Rosa, California. For Medvin, rap was an escape from life’s horrors, like his drug-addicted father.

“Rap was a positive influence for me,” said Medvin. “Songs like Tupac’s *Dear Momma*, *Unconditional Love* and *Brenda’s Got a Baby* showed me humanity and compassion.”

**David Jassy**: “Rap was more positive than negative growing up. The whole thing back then was we were breaking [dancing] instead of fighting. That was what was so positive about

## Yard Talk

the movement.”

**Medvin**: “Rap can be both negative and positive. It’s also an entertainment and you have to realize that. If you kill somebody and blame it on rap music then you probably have psychological issues already.”

While Medvin believes music can’t be the root cause of an issue, studies support that exposure to violent media increases aggression-related thoughts and behavior. Exposure to positive music also increases pro-society thoughts and tendencies. (Tobias Greitemeyer, *Effects of songs with prosocial lyrics on prosocial thoughts, affect, and behavior*, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology).

Experiments have provided evidence that people are ca-

pable of committing evil acts under certain situational forces. “The expectations of others often become self-fulfilling prophecies,” wrote Phillip Zimbardo in *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil* (p. 321). “We often become who other people think we are, in their eyes.”

Mainstream rap music often tells its audience that being drug dealers makes sense.

*“I’ve seen it all; you have no choice but to get involved; you either spit it raw, sold coke or dribble the ball,”* rapped Meek Mills on Dream Chasers 3.

**Eric Curtis**: “Four members of N.W.A. (rap group) are from my hood in Compton. Everything they were pushing, I was trying to push...and it spread like wildfire. Rap went hand

in hand with gang bangers, and gang banging was worse than crack cocaine. It killed off more people.”

**Lewis**: “You had rappers pushing products they weren’t even endorsed to do, but it made me want those products. Easy-E’s brand was Old English 800, if I want to be like him, I gotta drink Old E. He had a low rider, I wanted a Low ride or a G-ride, because they had a stolen car story.”

**Johnson**: “When I was out there, the music wasn’t gangster rap. When Dana Dane [an old school rapper] spoke of robbing someone and getting lockup, it was a cautionary tale. It didn’t stop us from doing what we did, but we went into these things informed from the cautionary tales. Now you have absent daddies where individuals get instructions from someone who doesn’t mean them any good. Rap is telling kids today that success

comes from having a Bentley. If you don’t have these things, then you are nothing; you can’t enter into this social circle. It makes kids want to cut corners to get what rappers say make you relevant.”

**Antwan “Banks” Williams, age 27**: “Rap is more negative on our youth nowadays. If rappers portray their life as money, strippers, guns and drugs, they are going to attract easily influenced youngsters and adults.”

Most of the panel concluded rap has become a harmful authority to its listeners. It convinces many youths their only hope of overcoming the ghetto is to sell drugs, rap or play a sport. In doing so, it pushes an agenda of cultural destruction.

In the third installment of this six-part series, the Yard Talk panel will discuss how “keeping it real” ruined rap.

*Trenise Ferreira contributed to this story.*

# Hot August Nights and the Hottest People We Can’t Forget

By **Angelo Falcone**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of August is the fifth of seven months with 31 days. A full moon is expected on Saturday, Aug. 29. For Christians, the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary occurs on Saturday, Aug. 15.

*The World Almanac* reports August is Black Business Month, Happiness Happens Month, National Immunization Awareness Month and National

## Asked On The Line

Toddler Month.

The two astrological signs in August are Leo, the sign of the Lion (July 23 to Aug. 22), and Virgo, the sign of the Virgin (Aug. 23 to Sep. 22). The August birthstone is the sardonyx or peridot.

August brings on strong summer heat. Being “hot” can be an uncomfortable feeling in one sense, but it can also describe a

very good-looking person.

In honor of people who mainliners find outrageously “hot,” Asked On The Line inquired: “Who is or was the most attractive person you have met or known in person? And in your opinion, who is the hottest celebrity you have ever seen?”

Jesus Flores: “The hottest woman I know is my wife, Rachel, and I think Eva Longoria is

the most good-looking actress.”

Kevin Myers: “The hottest girlfriend I ever dated was a model named Janet. The hottest celebrity is Ninel Conde.”

Manuel Murillo: “My first love, Magdalena Ochoa, was the prettiest girl I ever met. When I was a teenager, Magdalena was my sweetheart. We met in school. The hottest celebrity to me is a tie between Marilyn

Monroe and Salma Hayek.”

Vicente Gomez: “The prettiest girl I ever knew was named Edilia. We lived in the same neighborhood when we were adolescents. For me, Maribel Guardia is the most beautiful woman. I love every movie and television show she has been in.”

Forest Jones: “Tracy Caffaro. I met her at a KFC in 1991. She was about 5’9” with long hair that went down past her waist. She had just bought a bucket of fried chicken and I asked her if I could jump into her bucket so she could take me home. She laughed and said, ‘Yes.’ Angelina Jolie is one of most attractive celebrities I have ever seen. I love everything about her.”

Juan Arballo: “The most beautiful woman I know is my girlfriend, Tammy. The most attractive celebrity is Sharon Stone.”

# Department of Justice Probes Florida Prison Deaths in 2014

## Mentally Ill Inmate Was Allegedly Locked in a 180-Degree Scalding Shower

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

After a series of inmate deaths, the U.S. Department of Justice is investigating the Florida prison system.

With 320 inmate deaths for 2014 as of Dec. 8, the Florida prison system was on track for its deadliest year in history, according to a Dec. 13 article in the *Miami Herald*.

Florida has the third-largest prison system in the nation, with 101,000 inmates and a \$2.1 billion budget.

The rise of prison deaths coincides with an aging prison population and the doubling of incidents involving use of force by officers over the past five years, the *Herald* reported.

The public outcry by human rights groups and prison reform activists caused state lawmakers to scrutinize the prison system.

In the midst of the uproar, Gov. Rick Scott hired Julie Jones as Department of Corrections secretary, replacing Mike Crews, who retired.

“If nothing else, the corrections officers and the people running the institutions have been put on notice that someone else is watching them, and they are no longer policing themselves,” said David Weinstein, a former federal pros-

ecutor in Miami.

In one of many suspicious deaths, Bernadette “Brandi” Gregory, 42, was found hanged in her cell at the Lowell Correctional Institution in 2009.

Her death came four days after she filed a written complaint that a correctional officer captain had beaten her and bashed her over the head with a radio, DOC records show.

“I will not sleep on this. I will follow through to the end and press charges,” Gregory said in her complaint.

Prison authorities said Gregory tied a double knot in a sheet, twisted it several times around her top bunk, looped the other end around her neck and hanged herself – all this in 11 minutes from her wheelchair while handcuffed.

Gregory was getting out in eight months and records show she repeatedly complained that officers were ridiculing her and falsified disciplinary reports to place her in solitary confinement.

Debbie Escoe, a retired Lowell corrections officer who helped cut Gregory down, said, it would have been difficult – but not impossible – for her to tie the ligature in 11 minutes while handcuffed in front of her torso.

Escoe added that she doubts that Gregory’s death was the result of foul play because sur-

veillance cameras would have shown everyone who came and went from her confinement cell.

Linda Thompson, a former Lowell inmate, described to the *Herald* seeing a group of corrections officers flipping over Gregory’s wheelchair while kicking and beating her the day she died.

A spokesman for the department said Gregory’s death was thoroughly investigated, and two officers were disciplined for failing to follow procedure and failing to protect Gregory.

After the death of Darren Rainey in 2012, former DOC Secretary Crews announced a series of reforms.

Rainey 50, a mentally ill inmate, was allegedly locked in a 180-degree scalding shower by corrections officers at Dade Correctional Institution as punishment for defecating on the floor of his cell and refusing to clean it up.

Crews forced DCI’s warden and deputy warden to step down. Even though he fired more than two dozen officers for excessive force that led to the deaths of inmates, many have gotten their jobs back,

the newspaper reported.

The new inmate mortality database, which lists all inmates’ deaths, is one of the reforms initiated by Crews that is receiving criticism.

Families of inmates say the supplementary reports that detail the deaths are so heavily redacted that they are unreadable. The families are forced to hire lawyers and go to court for the un-redacted reports.

The “transparency database,” as Crews called it, only posts inmates deaths that are deemed accidents, homicides or suicides.

“They are getting away with murder, quite frankly,” said Ron McAndrew, a retired Florida warden who is now a prison consultant.

“There are cases that go back decades and not just state correctional institutions, but juvenile institutions as well.” A shake-up in the department is long overdue, McAndrew added.

In the mid-1970s, the federal courts oversaw the Florida prisons for more than two decades to relieve overcrowding and provide adequate medical care.

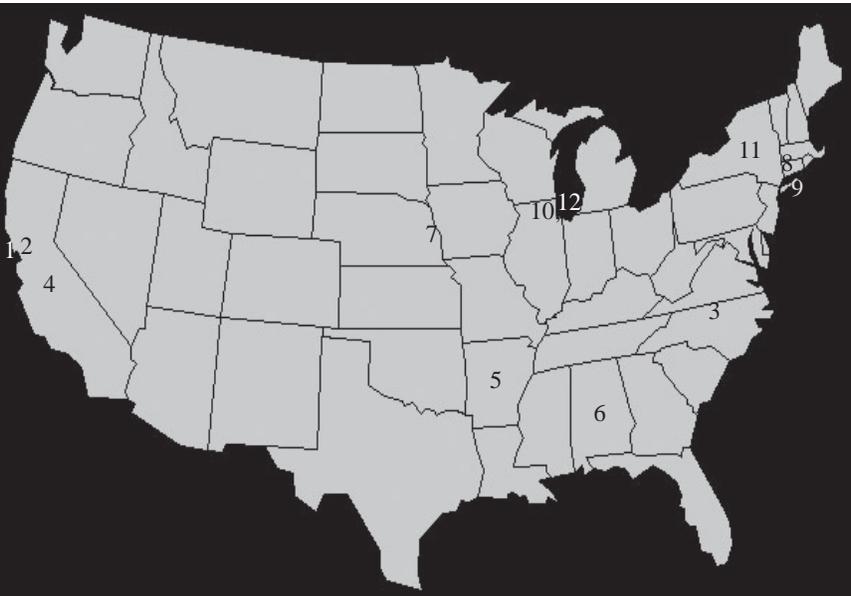
Corrections: In last month’s July 70 Edition of the San Quentin News, the articles Veterans’ Dramas, Memorial Day and Shakespeare photo captions were mislabeled. Instead, Leroy Lucas and Sam Hearn should be credited for taking the photos.

“The most beautiful woman I know is my girlfriend, Tammy”

Carl Burnside: “Honestly, my fiancée, Sherry Jennings. In spite of her physical beauty, her inner beauty is radiant. Her kind and loving spirit resembles Mother Earth, always nurturing and bringing her absolute best for everyone. Oprah Winfrey, too, because of the will, desire and courage she displays in nourishing and educating a nation of impoverished people.”

Angelo Falcone: “One of the most beautiful women I know, outside of the women in my family, is Linda. She is awesome. I admire her intelligence and kindness. As far as female celebrities, I love Rihanna.”

# News Briefs



**1. San Quentin** — Death of condemned inmate Michael Lamont Jones, 44, is being investigated as a possible suicide, prison officials said. He was pronounced dead, May 25 at 3:51 p.m.

**2. San Quentin** — A group of Death Row inmates has filed a federal lawsuit against the state for keeping them in the Adjustment Center at San Quentin State Prison for years, even decades, locked in windowless cells with no phone calls or human contact, *The Associated Press* reports. Its treatment, they said, “amounts to torture.” According to the suit, they are held in their cells 21 to 24 hours a day with no natural light, no access to education or work programs, no phone calls and no contact visits from family members, who must speak to them by phone across a glass barrier.

**3. Raleigh, N.C.** — Henry McCollum, 51, and Leon Brown, 47, qualified for \$750,000 from the state for being wrongfully imprisoned for three decades. The brothers were convicted for the 1983 murder and rape of an 11-year-old girl. DNA evidence pointed to another man, *The Associated Press* reports.

**4. Fresno** — Advocates for Fresno County jail inmates said that the county has settled a lawsuit alleging mistreatment, *The Associated Press* reports. The settlement improves care for inmates with chronic ailments and mental health issues.

**5. Little Rock, Ark.** — Ulonzo Gordon will get a new sentencing hearing after the state’s high

court upheld a lower court ruling that he should receive a new sentence consistent with a 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling barring mandatory life sentences for juveniles, *The Associated Press* reports.

**6. Montgomery, Ala.** — A settlement has been reached between prison officials and the U.S. Justice Department, which found that correctional officers at Julia Tutwiler Prison coerced inmates into sex, watched them shower, use the bathroom and organized a New Year’s Eve strip show, *The Associated Press* reports. The settlement came after

months of negotiations about changes that include requirements to have sexual abuse and harassment allegations properly and thoroughly reported, a tracking system for prison staff, installation of monitoring cameras, increased privacy in bathrooms and the hiring of a compliance manager to comply with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act.

**7. Lincoln, Neb.** — Gov. Pete Ricketts and several officials, including a state senator and a Toastmaster director, visited 15 inmates who participate in a club that helps them connect and

communicate with others, *The Associated Press* reports. The INnovators Club helps prisoners learn how to communicate with others and to appropriately disagree with alternative opinions.

**8. Hartford, Conn.** — John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded Connecticut a \$150,000 grant to help the state come up with a plan to reduce the number of people jailed while awaiting trial or serving short sentences, *The Associated Press* reports. The grant is one of 20 across the nation.

**9. New York City** — City officials have agreed to reforms at

Rikers Island, including the appointment of a federal monitor to oversee the jail complex, prohibitions against guards striking prisoners in the head and even the introduction of body cameras to be worn by guards, *The Associated Press* reports. Other reforms include the development of a computerized system to better track the use of force by correction officers, the implementation of an early warning program to flag guards who use force against inmates three or more times in six months, injuring at least one of them, and the installation of 8,000 new surveillance cameras throughout the jail complex.

**10. Chicago** — Jason Strong, 39, was released from prison after his conviction for a 1999 murder was overturned. County prosecutors found that findings by pathologists were erroneous and that witnesses were pressured by authorities to say Strong did the killing, *The Associated Press* reports.

**11. New York** — Shabaka Shakur was released from prison after a judge ruled there was a “reasonable probability” Shakur’s confession was fabricated, and he was granted a new trial, *The Associated Press* reports. Shakur spent 27 years behind bars for the 1988 killing of two friends.

**12. Chicago** — Angel Gonzalez, 41, received a certificate of innocence from a county judge for a 1994 abduction and rape, *The Associated Press* reports. DNA evidence cleared him of the crime.

## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductible. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. 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.

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\*Have made more than one donation

# Williams, 'ATL' MVPs of All-Star Game

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Allan McIntosh and Oris "Pep" Williams out-shined the All-Star competition while leading the East to an 82-76 victory over the West in the Intramural Basketball League.

Williams was named the MVP for the East and Harry "ATL" Smith for the West by Commissioner Ishmael Freelon. "I think we (McIntosh) should be co-MVPs," said Williams.

McIntosh led all scores with 28 points and 7 rebounds. Williams posted a double-double with 15 points, 11 rebounds, 5 assists and 6 steals.

Members of rival teams became allies in the June 14 game that featured some of the best basketball players in San Quentin pitted against each other.

"I wanted somebody from every team and they were chosen by their stats," said Freelon.

Orlando Harris is the head coach of the S.Q. Kings and the Squad Up intramural team. He coached the East team.

East members were McIntosh, Williams, J. "Mailman" Ratchford, Derrick Cart-



Oris "Pep" Williams hustling for a loose ball with fellow King, Tare "Cancun" Beltran

wright, Charles Sylvester, Jason Jones, Tommie Nellon, D. Zaid Nicholson, Kevin Carr and D. "Frog" Dewitt. (Carr and Dewitt didn't attend.)

The West team was coached by Franchise intramural team coach and S.Q. Warrior forward Brad Shells. His team members were "ATL" Smith, Donte Smith, Montrell Vines, F. "Dot. Com" Hicks, Antonio Cavitt, Jamal Green, DePriest Brown, Seven Singh, Larry "TY" Jones and K. Shaheed. (Jones didn't attend.)

"I know everybody's game

out here, so the guys I was playing with, I know their strengths. I know how to get them the ball," said McIntosh.

Foul trouble and turnovers plagued the West during the first half.

"We were up by 18 and then they made a nice run. They played great defense in the second half to get the game back within one. Then we found our groove and got our momentum back," said Williams.

Things changed for the West when Hicks came off the bench. His smothering defense caused



Harry "ATL" Smith going up over defenders in a 2014 Intramural game

turnovers for the East, plus Hicks was able to knock down threes and get to the rack.

"ATL" Smith also started playing like a man determined to win, after a slow start.

Smith led his team with 24 points and 22 rebounds, 3 assists and a steal. Hicks added 23 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists and 5 steals.

Brown dropped 13 with 7 rebounds, 4 steals and 2 blocks, along with Donte Smith's 11 points and 6 rebounds in the comeback attempt.

With 6 minutes and 17 sec-

onds left in the fourth quarter, the West was down 73-72 and seemed poised to take the lead. Then the East made a run.

Williams drove to the rack for a layup in traffic, yelling, "Agghhh!"

Then Nellon blocked a pass, stole the ball from midair and attempted to make a layup. He missed but grabbed his own rebound and powered up for the basket, making the score, 77-72. From there the East never looked back.

Nellon, Jones and Nicholson scored nine points each.

## A's Game Ends in 2-2 Tie With Muscle Milk

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Tough defense and a pitching duel left the San Quentin A's and the Benicia Muscle Milk tied, 2-2.

The A's found themselves in a battle with some baby-faced youngsters fresh out of high school.

These athletic youth managed to score two quick runs in the first inning.

After a couple of walks, Milk's Nate Edwins hit a single up the centerfield gap to bring in Elliot Palmer.

Haas Walling showed his patience as he worked against a 2-3 count. He hit a line drive to right field to score Dillon

Habbeger for the 2-0 lead.

"Their pitcher is keeping every pitch active, so you have to stay focused. Just like life, everything doesn't go your way, but when they do, you have to take advantage of it," said Walling.

The A's regrouped and showed what grown men could do by turning double plays with finesse.

The A's scored the hard way in the first. After a couple of walks and a single from Reggie Hunt, Rob Tyler hit a sacrifice fly to right field to score Bilal Coleman.

The Milk still didn't give an inch. Pitcher Brett Brightwell struck out the next batter, and the shortstop fielded a ground

ball for the easy play at first base.

"I got into a rhythm and found the location for my fastball. It's fun to play these guys. They are committed to the sport, and they make you compete," said Brightwell.

A's pitcher Carlyle "Otter" Blake kept batters off balance and second guessing for seven innings.

The A's scored again in the sixth. Cleo Cloman singled, and Royce Rose hit a double to drive Cloman home to tie it 2-2.

Milk fought back as catcher Jerry Huson threw out Blake trying to steal second. That was the second time Huson caught the A's stealing.

Brightwell topped it off with back-to-back strikeouts. He had six for the game.

The A's bought in veteran pitcher Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla to close out the eighth and ninth.

The Milk struggled to score in both innings; the A's defense was on top of everything.

The A's had a chance to win the game with a man on third and two outs. Hunt stepped to the plate and hit a deep ball to left field.

Walling of the Milk made a magnificent catch off the left field gate, ending this June 27 game in a tie, as playing time ran out. The game couldn't continue past the ninth inning

because yard was recalled for the 8 p.m. count.

"That was probably the best baseball game played this season. It was fun playing those youngsters. Our starting pitcher Blake pitched one hell of a game," said Thompson-Bonilla.

"I'm proud of these guys; they battled all nine innings, and we need this type of game," said A's Head Coach John "Yah Yah" Parratt.

Milk Head Coach Mike Palmer added, "I love playing these guys and getting a chance to fellowship. It's more than just a game; it's about faith and helping these guys transition back into society."

## Bench Players Roll Over Lincoln Hill Team, 69-47

San Quentin Warriors role and bench players showed their talents in a 69-47 rout of the Lincoln Hill Community Church basketball team.

Warrior Head Coach Daniel Wright gave his three best players - Allan McIntosh, Harry "ATL" Smith and Anthony Ammons - the game off.

"I was inspired by the Golden State Warriors to try playing small ball against Lincoln Hill," said Wright.

S.Q. Warrior General Manager Robert "Bishop" Butler set the tone with a pre-game speech.

"Greatness of the soul is available to those who do not have the luxury of being ecstatic about their bodies or appearance," said Butler. "We may not be LeBron or Stephen Curry, but we can have greatness of the soul."

Julio Saca said, "It feels good to be playing my first game of



Rafeal Bankston posing with Warriors Miguel Sifuentes, Brad Shells, DuPriest Brown and equipment manager Elijah Fejeran

the season after coming off an injury. I feel I still have some things to work on, like slowing down. I can help my team where they need me to help out

- I have to figure out my role."

Saca led the Warriors with 13 points on 5 for 9 shooting, including 3 made treys.

Even Warrior equipment

manager Elijah Fejeran got to play a few minutes and managed to knock down a 3-pointer.

Despite the final score, the Lincoln Hill team was competitive. They had former overseas pro Bart Gijbels, who is 6-foot-8, on their side. The 44-year-old says he played in Belgium, France and Germany.

His teammate, Dave Gordon, also played well, getting to the rack several times and drawing fouls, but only hit 3 out of 12 free-throw attempts.

Steve Watkins had 10 points and 11 rebounds for Lincoln Hill.

The Warriors were only ahead 28-22 at the half.

At halftime, Pastor and Lincoln Hill player Miguel Rodriguez delivered an inspirational message.

He advised everyone to be open to learning and growing. He used the fact that climbers finally reached the top of Mt.

Everest, the tallest mountain in the world, after learning from more than 140 failed expeditions.

"Mt. Everest won't conquer us because it can't grow anymore, but we can," said Rodriguez to both teams crowded around midcourt. "With God's help, we can grow and climb mountains of righteousness."

In the third quarter the Warriors depth overwhelmed Lincoln Hill, ending the quarter 50-33 and leaving Lincoln Hill permanently in the rearview mirror.

"Otter and Julio stood out to me," said Wright after the game.

Carlyle "Otter" Blake played like a super-charged Energizer bunny. He scored eight points.

"My main concern with Julio was, 'Is he 100 percent healthy before donning a Warriors uniform?'" said Wright.

-By **Rahsaan Thomas**

# Hart Highlights Record-Breaking Track Meet

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Olympic Gold Medalist Eddie Hart recently gave running advice on the San Quentin Lower Yard where several 1000 Mile Club members broke records.

"It's all about technique and relaxation at the last part of a 200- or 400-meter race," Hart said.

Hart won a Gold Medal while breaking the world record as the anchor for a 400-meter relay race at the 1972 Olympics. Because of a mix-up with scheduling, he missed a 100-meter race and his chance to compete for another Gold Medal. Since then he has coached track and competed in other track events.

Now he has the Eddie Hart All in One Foundation. "I felt compelled to start the (foundation) to use my name, influence, relationships and resources to make a positive difference in the lives of youngsters," Hart told the crowd.

This was his third San Quentin visit in three years. Before the track meet, Hart told the runners circled around him how to run better.

"The body is made to run a certain way. You never want to strike the ground with the

heel of the foot. The ankle is designed to absorb shock, but you have to hit the ground just behind the toes to absorb shock. If you land on your heels, the excess shock is taken up by the knee. That's why a lot of people have knee problems. When you first start running correctly, you are going to have soreness in your calf. That's OK; it will go away."

Hart also talked about the importance of staying relaxed when running.

"When you are sprinting, you want a nice even knee lift, just below the hip. When you are trying to increase your stride, you do it by what happens behind you. You want to completely extend the back toe off the ground as your front knee comes up. That's sprinting. Lift front leg up, don't extend it."

Four new records were set at the track meet on June 26.

A group of about 50 inmates witnessed Eddie Herena break his 2013 one-mile record by four seconds with the time of 5:10.29.

Clifton Williams won the quarter-mile for the 50 and older runners to set a new record at 1:09.21.

The half-mile record breaker, Markelle Taylor, left the competition in the distance with the

time of 2:14.32.

In the 50 and older 100-meter race, Tone Evans was timed at 12.26 to beat his 2014 record by .15 second. He also lowered to 25.63 the 200-meter record for the same age group set by Winfred Saddler at 26.11 in 2012.

"When you have Eddie Hart and the 1000 mile coaches here, it's all worth it," said Evans.

Hart added, "The first time I was here, I didn't know what to expect. I got a chance to know the guys and share my experiences. Now I have the chance to teach about diet, exercise and techniques. These guys are like sponges; they take it all in. Track is a lot like life; it's about adjustments. So with my foundation, I'm trying to improve the human condition to be free of injuries and diseases."

The meet started in a high competitive spirit when Oscar Aguilar and Eddie "Edito" DeWeaver collided at the start of the 100-meter. Aguilar stayed in his lane and coasted to victory. DeWeaver had a clean start to win the 200-meter.

"I thank Eddie (Hart) for the racing tips. I dedicate this win to my daughter, but most of all I thank Yaweh for my health," said DeWeaver.

Morceli Abdel Kader took the



Photo by Trevor Shultz

1000 Mile Club coaches R.J. Lozada, Melody Anne Schultz, Frank Ruona, Eddie Hart, and Kevin Rumon

quarter-mile in 57.07 by running the track corners with finesse to break the 60.60 record set by Nghiep Lam.

"I was able to break a record even with my injury. I thank Eddie (Hart) and the outside volunteers for their support. They have bigger hearts than we do. Their support helps us feel free and to change our behavior," said Kader.

The 4x400 meter relay climaxed the warm day events. Jesus Sanchez, Reynaldo Campos, Carlos Moreno and Oscar

Aguilar passed the baton with skill to blow by the rest of the pack.

Albert Mendez was named star of the day. "Mendez has been injured most of the track season and today he ran in all the races, not caring where he placed," said Assistant Coach Kevin Rumon.

Volunteer timekeeper Melody Schultz added, "I've been running for 20 years and watching these guys inspires me."

—Rahsaan Thomas  
contributed to this story

## Hardtimers Take Down Diego Brothers, 18-15

The San Quentin Hardtimers and the Diego Brothers softball game resembled a homerun derby as the Hardtimers edged the Diego Brothers 18-15.

The Diego Brothers opened the first inning with 10 straight runs.

Anthony Firenzi started the rally with a line drive double to centerfield. Then Sean Morgan belted the ball over the right field gate.

After the next two batters hit singles, Todd Morris found the same spot over the right field gate.

"That's what you call chicken wings," said Morris over a group of hecklers.

J.D. Diego belted in three more runs with a triple. Next, Ryno Fisher smashed the ball over the left field gate for the 10-0 lead.

The Hardtimers answered back with a rally scoring seven runs.

Nghiep Ke Lam opened with a powerful hit over the right field gate to the cheers of the small crowd and his teammates.

John "Dunie" Windham belt-

ed in two runs when he sent the ball deep over the left field gate. Isaiah "Zeke" Daniels drove in two more runs with a triple, while Cory Woods brought Daniels in with a single.

"They came to play today, and that's what we came for -- good competition," said Diego Brother Morgan.

The Hardtimers defense shut-down the Diego Brothers for two innings. Meantime, Ke Lam hit homeruns in the second and third for the 12-10 lead.

With one runner on in the

fourth, the Diego Brothers tied the game with another homerun from Morgan.

In the fifth, the Hardtimers retook the lead, 13-12, when Windham smashed a homerun over the right field gate.

The Hardtimers put up five runs in the sixth. Windham contributed another homerun and a RBI, this time to centerfield. Ke Lam drove in two runs off a triple. DuPriest Brown bought Ke Lam in off a single for the 18-12 lead.

With their last at-bat, the Diego Brothers scored three runs.

Fisher doubled to bring in Jim Grove and Tommy "T-Doe" Dobberstein.

Firenzi double to score Fisher, but with two outs Morgan pop-flied to center field to end the sunny June 26 game.

"Today we jelled. We played as a team," said Ke Lam. Windham added, "We banged it out today. These guys are awesome."

"This was a battle, but the team with the most runs in the end wins," said Diego coach Phil Martino.

—By Marcus Henderson

## Don Smith Aids in Green Team 93-81 Win Over Kings

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

The visiting Green Team's oldest player, Don Smith, helped his squad rally from a 17-point deficit to defeat the San Quentin Kings, 93-81.

"It was a nice Father's Day present for me," said Smith, who is about 60 years old and 5-foot-8.

The Green Team went on a 19-point run to retake the lead in the third quarter of the June 20 game. This included a pass from Pat Lacey to Smith in the corner for a three-pointer. This put the Green Team ahead 51-44 with 8:06 left in the quarter, setting the stage for Smith's contribution.

Just before the Kings' game, the Christian Sports Ministry (Green Team) sponsor — Smith — watched his basketball team play the first half of a double-header against the S.Q. Warriors. (The Warriors lost 73-70)

After the Warriors game, several players couldn't stay, leaving only four to face the Kings. This forced Smith and Coach Bill Epling to take an active role

on the court. They also recruited S.Q. Warrior Montrell Vines.

"To play with great players is a treat," said Smith.

The Green Team started off on the wrong foot, as center Lacey turned the ball over on the first two possessions. The Kings took advantage, gaining the 17-point lead.

The Green Team started its push late in the second quarter,

but still was down, 44-36, at the half. Then two things changed the momentum. Lacey gave his team a pep talk during a huddle and Smith came off the bench.

"Play hard and everybody rebound," said Lacey.

Smith set the tone by stealing the ball from a Kings player and his team rallied around Lacey's speech and Smith's hustle.

"Lacey has a Gregg Popovich

beard going, so we're all scared of him," joked Bobby Williams. "He's a great motivator."

Smith finished with 3 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist and 2 steals. He nailed another shot from three-point range after pump-faking a defender, but the ref called "traveling."

King guard Oris "Pep" Williams played with determination in the fourth quarter, nailing

five shots in a row. His 32 points and 15 rebounds combined with J. "Mailman" Ratchford's 14 points and 16 rebounds to bring the Kings within four at 71-67 with seven minutes on the game clock.

The Kings' rally fell short against teamwork. Four Green Team players had double-doubles.

Chris Blees led his team with 28 points, 10 rebounds, 6 assists and 4 steals. Lacey added 20 points, 14 boards, 7 assists and 3 blocks. Bobby Williams contributed 13 points and 17 rebounds. Brandon Curtis squeezed in 11 points and 10 boards with a last second rebound.

"Painful," said Curtis about how it felt to get a double-double against the Kings.

"We were dedicated to play hard," said B. Williams.

"It's what we had to do and everybody bought into it," said Lacey.

Vines dropped 16 points. "It's hard to recruit anybody good enough to play the Warriors and very few against the Kings. The Kings are tough," said Epling after the game.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Pat Lacey, Don Smith guarding Timothy Long, R. Ratchford, and Chris Blees

# Juneteenth Celebration Rocks the San Quentin Lower Yard

*'All these songs represent some type of love, but no matter what, there is nothing greater in this world than love'*

**Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer**

It was all about spreading love at the *Funk on the Green Juneteenth* celebration.

Juneteenth is about the remembrance of the slaves in Texas finally hearing in 1865 that they were free. When the sun finally broke through the clouds, over 100 inmates gather

to watch the event.

"This is our Memorial and Independence Day. It's good to see that everybody came out to celebrate," said Micheal Polk.

The June 20<sup>th</sup> concert on San Quentin's Lower Yard. The "One Man Band" named Allen "Squirrel" Ware opened the show with six original jazz tunes. The crowd went crazy when he sang about a relation-

ship in "All about the money" and "Sunshine."

"Ware was the first one to look out for me back in 1979. He gave me a T.V. and whatever I needed. Things were different back then. It would be good to see him go," said Polk.

Harun Taylor was MC for the event, and gave a moving improvisation of a slave who just received the news that he was free.

Taylor depicted a 30-year-old slave named Abner Josephus Mac Williams who lived to be 180. Taylor used the character to take the crowd on a history lesson where Blacks fought for freedom in every major war, be it for themselves or others.

"Juneteenth is American's history, even though it's not taught in schools. We are Americans. We must sit back and take account that freedom isn't free; it comes with a price," said Taylor.

A band named The New Syndicate of Funk livened up the crowd with old school songs including Earth, Wind and Fire's "Can't Hide Love," and Frankie Beverly and Maze's "Before I Let Go."

Lead singer Rico Rogers performed an original song, "You Don't Know" to the crowds delight.

The Just Us Band added its own funk and soul featuring songs by John Windham, Darryl "Champ" Hill, and spoken word "I am 2.0" from Taylor.

"All these songs represent some type of love, but no matter what, there is nothing greater in this world than love," said Hill. "We really made today a celebration; that's what's important to us," said bass player Darryl Farris.

The rap group A and R rocked with their song "She Loves It." Jason Jones and Maurice Reed got the crowd on their feet to join in. "That's the response we were looking for; we got the people to do our dance. It's good to see everybody getting along and brothers in blue supporting each other," said Reed.

Dwight Krisman asked the crowd to pray for long-time volunteer Audrey Auld, who suffers from cancer. Krisman, who is White, also led a moment of silence prayer for the Black church murder victims in South Carolina.

George "Mesro" Coles-El read his poem call "Victory." The lines include: "Victory is living for the day. Victory is standing firm in the mist of evil. Victory is life."

Eric Curtis read one of his short stories of a struggling family and its goal: not to commit the same mistakes.

Closing out the day was Paul Comaux and Friends with a tribute to legendary B.B. King. As Comaux sang, Joe Mason and Lee Jasper made their guitars scream the blues. When they ended with the "Thrill is Gone" the dwindling crowd gave their final cheers.

"What is a better way to end the day than by honoring one of our greatest with the 'Thrill is Gone,'" said Comaux.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Allen "Squirrel" Ware starting the celebration off right



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Harun Taylor kicking of the Juneteenth celebration



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Rico Rogers displaying his many talents



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Greg Dixon on the drums, keeping the show going



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Joe Mason rocking the guitar with Paul Comaux



Photo by Sam Hearnes

J. Jones and M. Reed performing their hit song



Photo by Sam Hearnes

James Benson handling the drums

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