

# San Quentin News

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## Facebook Founder Tours San Quentin

Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg traded in his signature black hoodie for a white shirt and slacks when he toured California's oldest prison.

The 31-year old social media CEO, his wife, Dr. Priscilla

Chan, and some Facebook staff members toured San Quentin State Prison, including the entrance to the Death Row area in East Block, on Oct. 13.

See Facebook Czar on Page 20



Photo by Alan Barrett of CALPIA

San Quentin News team interviewing Mark Zuckerberg

## 'Prison System Isn't Changing Anything'

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

A well-rounded life has shaped Inspector General Robert A. Barton's view of rehabilitation. He visited San Quentin State Prison to discuss talking at the TEDx event planned for early 2016.

"We can keep locking people up or we can try to change some-

thing because the prison system isn't changing anything," said Barton. "AB 109 was a Band-Aid. Long-term rehabilitation is the only solution."

The Inspector General oversees the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and makes recommendations.

See CDCR on Page 4



Photo by Eddie Herena

Delia Cohen and Inspector General Robert A. Barton

To participate in Decembers "Bay Area Hygiene Drive for Homeless Youths," See Page 7

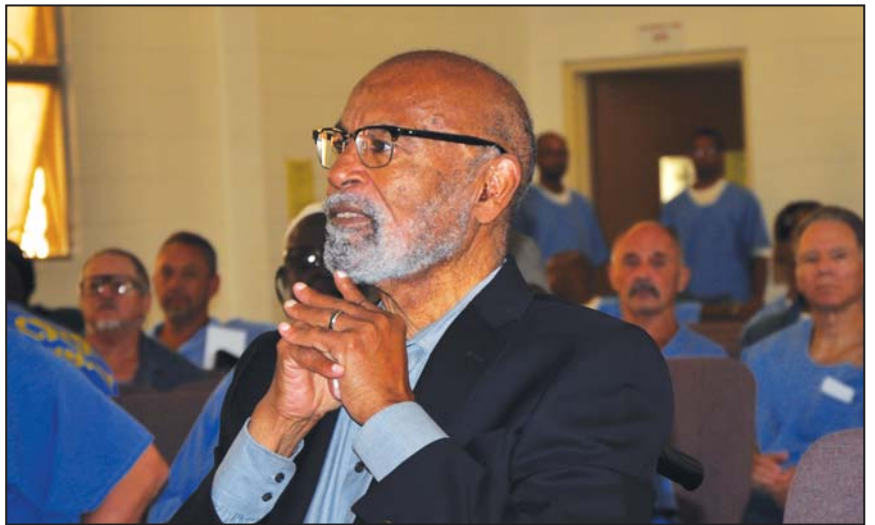


Photo by Eddie Herena

Judge Henderson watches a video with inmates of his ground-breaking achievements

## Cheers of Inmates Greet Judge Henderson's Visit

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

It is not every day that a federal district court judge visits a prison to talk to inmates. That is exactly what happened in September at San Quentin.

A crowd of about 150 inmates and guests greeted Judge Thel-

ton Henderson with cheers and a standing ovation as he entered the Protestant Chapel in a wheelchair (he has a progressive muscle disease.) Henderson shook hands with inmates as he made his way down the aisle to the stage area.

"I appreciate that he is a judge that will take the time to come

to a prison to see for himself both sides to make an informed decision on what he should do, whether it's conditions of confinement or excessive force," said inmate Tim Young.

No corrections officers escorted the judge. One captain

See Judge on Page 10



Photo by Sam Hearn

Efrain Lara, Robert Bagwell, Ellen Dahlke and Rodolfo Medina-Barragan listen to intense conversation about prison problems and programs

## The School-to-Prison Pipeline Teachers Explore Remedies at SQ News Forum

Bay Area teachers ventured inside prison to discuss the school-to-prison pipeline and how best to tackle it. San Quentin News hosted the October forum that allowed 14 educators and 21 inmates an opportunity to exchange ideas.

The teachers are troubled by the ever-increasing trend of student suspension, expulsion and arrest fueled by overreaching policies such as "zero toler-

ance." Because of this, they accepted an invitation to discuss these issues with inmates whose delinquency started in the public school system.

"The school-to-prison pipeline has to do with bias," said Deborah Mendoza, a former probation officer who works for the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). She said kids are

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The last edition of San Quentin News printed a Choose1, 3-Strike article submitted by F. Jones, next month we will print a revised version, which will also be posted on our website



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



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.



**We Want To Hear From You!**

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

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

Send Submissions to:

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# Writing in Your Own Voice, As Taught by Two Experts

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Every Friday evening a small group of inmates assembles in San Quentin's H-Unit education room to practice and discuss writing techniques, guided by bestselling-authors Kent and Keith Zimmerman.

"One time I estimated and added up all the hours spent behind the walls of San Quentin; I figure I've done close to three weeks of time," Kent Zimmerman quips.

H-Unit is much newer than the main prison and is neatly tucked away on the other side of San Quentin's perimeter wall that towers overhead like a medieval fortress.

Compared to the main prison facility, which houses over 3,300 inmates, H-Unit is an attached small population compound, currently housing 380 inmates.

Here, inmates who choose to participate receive tips, pointers, and advice from the twin brother team of accomplished professional writers.

Each class session typically begins in an informal manner, with a lively mix of jests and quips, a few wisecracks, and other sidebar comments, as the men in the class gradually settle into their seats for the weekly forum.

Before long, however, an attentive focus takes over the room, prompted by Kent or Keith, who skillfully introduce a topic or noteworthy event and the class officially begins.

Unlike some classroom environments, the atmosphere is strikingly personal and down to earth, like a group of work colleagues gathered together at the lunch hour enjoying each other's company.

"We urge the guys to write in their own voice," says Kent Zimmerman. "That way it's honest, and never intellectually distant."

The Zimmerman brothers have been conducting their San Quentin creative writing class for more than 12 years.

They also conduct classes at

the Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy, but San Quentin was their first class. The prisons are "as different as they are the same," Kent says, "both environmentally and in how the classes evolve and are run; we like to cater to what each group expects and wants out of us."

Asked how many published books they've written, Kent says, "Frankly I've lost count, although my brother (Keith) claims it's 20 and I have no reason to doubt him."

The Zimmerman brothers were introduced to San Quentin by a college professor friend from San Francisco State who told them "I taught at San Quentin for 11 years, and it was the best experience ever."

*"The writing here is infinitely more interesting, edgy, and way more honest, not as 'correct'"*

Students in the class love the experience too, as expressed by longtime participant Mike Little: "The class has definitely helped my writing. It has helped me to understand not to be embarrassed by your writing; just put pen to paper."

New to the class and sharing his reaction to it, Nyerere Jase says, "It is a very informative and friendly atmosphere. I write urban fiction; the class may offer me some tips to enhance my writing."

Although the Zimmermans do not have any urban fiction titles in their portfolio of writings, they do share an appreciation for grittiness. Speaking about writing from behind the walls, Kent says "The writing here is infinitely more interesting, edgy, and way more honest, not as 'correct'."

The Zimmermans, however, are by no means strangers to counterculture and other sub-

jects that may raise eyebrows. Their book "Hell's Angel," co-authored with biker Sonny Barger, made *The New York Times* bestseller list. Their four follow-up books on the subject also made the list.

Other successful titles written by the Zimmermans include: "Huey: Spirit of the Panther," written with David Hilliard, a Chicago mob/outfit book, "Operation Family Secrets," and books with Alice Cooper and Earth Wind & Fire.

Kent talks about his and his brother's strong bent toward music and entertainment. "Our first book was with Johnny Rotten (of Sex Pistols fame), which made the *London Times* bestseller list. We did a signing in Piccadilly Square and for one week out-sold *Harry Potter*."

Inmate Mike Little confesses his interest in music as well. "I love music." The Zimmerman brothers talk about "pop culture" and things going on. "The class kinda' gives an outside perspective on things."

Little is quick to add, "Also, there are no race lines in the class; you get to sit down with people that you normally wouldn't, and hear people's stories, and get different takes on things."

Kent says that one of his and his brother's favorite projects came in response to a "Funny where life takes you" idea, which led to their book titled "H-Unit," about their experiences at San Quentin. "It celebrates the class and a general spirit of volunteerism, about how we ended up here, and why, and how."

Reflecting on their more than 12-year experience at San Quentin, Kent declares that "the administration has been ultra supportive of all of our efforts."

Additionally, he is eager to say that San Quentin provides him and his brother the human interaction needed after long and solitary periods of writing.

Kent says that he and his brother are currently working on projects with Kool and The Gang, and the Hooters restaurant franchise. "When pursuing work, as part of our pitch we tell prospective clients that we teach this class - it's very important that they know the work that we do in the prison." Furthermore, he adds, "I'm sure that our association with the prison has helped us get gigs."

To students in the class, Kent's major bit of advice about writing is: "Show, don't tell! That's the golden rule." His saying is similar to the popular prison yard adage "Don't talk about it; be about it."

"It is my longstanding belief that there is power in the written word that transcends verbal communication. I appreciate the creative feedback from well-established published authors," says regular class participant Elron Mings.



Keith and Kent Zimmerman

File Photo

# Death Penalty Ban Moves Toward 2016 Ballot

By **Juan Moreno Haines**  
Managing Editor

Former M.A.S.H. star and anti-death penalty advocate Mike Farrell filed papers that would end the death penalty in California in the state's attorney general's office on Sept. 15.

The ballot initiative, "The Justice That Works Act of 2016" (*The Act*) would retro-

actively convert all California death sentences to life without possibility of parole, reported the Capital Alert.

"Violent killers convicted of first degree murder must be separated from society and severely punished," and "murderers who are sentenced to serve life in prison without the possibility of parole in California are never eligible for parole. They spend the

rest of their lives in prison and they die in prison," *The Act* reads.

Since 1978, California sentenced nearly 1,000 murderers to death at a cost of more than \$4 billion. However, there have been only 13 executions since 1978, and none in almost 11 years, according to *The Act*.

Under this ballot initiative, convicted murderers would be legally required to work and

pay 60 percent of their wages as damages to compensate victims.

California's death penalty system is more costly than life imprisonment without the possibility of parole by more than \$100 million per year, according to *The Act*.

In addition, *The Act* cites the more than 150 innocent people who have been sentenced to death in the U.S.

"The death penalty is a failed government program that wastes taxpayer dollars and makes fatal mistakes."

The measure needs to collect 365,880 signatures by March 14 to qualify for the November 2016 ballot.

In 2012, 48 percent of Californians voted to end the death penalty while 52 percent favored keeping the law in place.

## Aiming to Eliminate 12 Million Yearly Jail Admissions MacArthur Foundation to Invest \$75 Million in Multi-Year Programs

By **Tommy Bryant**  
Journalism Guild Writer

America's jail system is seriously flawed and a non-profit foundation is investing

### Single Death Drug OK'd On 5-4 Supreme Court Vote

By **Charles David Henry**  
Journalism Guild Writer

A deeply emotional and divided U.S. Supreme Court finally upheld the use of a controversial single lethal injection execution process, "even as two dissenting justices said for the first time they think it's 'highly likely' the death penalty itself is unconstitutional," according to Mark Sherman of *The Associated Press*.

To resolve the dispute over the lethal injection drug, midazolam, used in Arizona, Ohio and Oklahoma executions last year, the court in a 5-4 decision ruled its use as a single injection for executions did not violate the Eighth Amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment, said Sherman.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, speaking on behalf of Justices Ginsburg, Breyer and Kagan, told Justice Samuel Alito in a bitter and biting dissent, "Under the court's new rule, it would not matter whether the state intended to use midazolam or instead to have petitioners drawn and quartered, slowly tortured to death or actually burned at the stake."

Justice Alito quickly told her, "The dissent's resort to this outlandish rhetoric reveals the weakness of the legal arguments."

In his own separate argument before the Court, Justice Breyer said, "Rather than try to patch up the death penalty's legal wounds one at a time, I would ask for full briefing on a more basic question: whether the death penalty violates the constitution." This question could open the door for future litigation because, Breyer said, "I believe it highly likely that the death penalty violates the Eighth Amendment."

The court's decision gives a green light to California to create a single drug method of lethal injection for inmates on America's largest death row. "Under a legal settle-

\$75 million to help finance changes.

Three-fifths of the nation's jail inmates are pre-trial defendants who are presumed innocent, commented Nicho-

las Turner, president of the Vera Institute. Releases with no money paid based on promise to return to court are less common than they were two decades ago.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation project is aimed toward eliminating 12 million jail admissions in the U.S. every year, according to a May 28 article by Ted Gest in *The Crime Report*.

The plan is to award \$150,000 grants to 20 locations around the country to prove that low-level offenders and defendant cases awaiting disposition do not have to be behind bars for public safety purposes.

"The 10 locations with the most promising plans will qualify next year for a second

round of funding, between \$500,000 and \$2 million each year, to put their ideas into action," reported Gest, president of Criminal Justice Journalists and Washington bureau chief of *The Crime Report*.

Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. "When the justice system fails, virtually nothing else can succeed."

Jails "are being used to detain the wrong individuals," said Michael Botticelli, director of the national drug control policies for the Obama administration. He called for a "public health" system, rather than a "punitive" approach.

"We should be screening people out (of jail), not in," said Botticelli, a former addict himself.

From 1983 to 2011, jail budgets have jumped from \$5.7 billion to \$22 billion, according to the Vera Institute. "The national price for jails remains unknown...taxpayers who foot most of the bill remain unaware of what their dollars are buying."

ment" reached earlier in June, Gov. Jerry Brown's administration agreed to propose a new lethal injection method 120 days after the Supreme Court made its final decision, said Maura Dolan of the *Los Angeles Times*.

Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, said this ruling would make it more difficult for challengers to block California's new protocol, which is due in late October. According to Dolan, state law requires extensive public comments, and this could take a year.

Dolan also reported that Scheidegger and his supporters prefer pentobarbital, used by veterinarians to kill animals. But U.C. Berkeley law professor Elisabeth Semel, who is in charge of a law school death penalty clinic that represents inmates on Death Row, said the state will be unveiling a new execution method at a time when there is profound ambivalence about executions in California. "I don't think anyone has the appetite" to execute approximately 750 people on Death Row, she said.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals will determine whether the decades-long delays in executions in California renders the state's death penalty unconstitutional. In 2014, U.S. District Court Judge Cormac Carney said delays and the arbitrary nature of these executions in California are unconstitutional.

Opponents of the death penalty, led by Ana Zamora of the Northern California ACLU, believe there is enough support for another ballot initiative and even with the death penalty on the books, California is still likely to have trouble enforcing it, Dolan reports.

Howard Mintz, staff writer for *Mercury News* said there are at least 15 Death Row inmates who have exhausted appeals and are eligible for execution, including three from the Bay Area.

round of funding, between \$500,000 and \$2 million each year, to put their ideas into action," reported Gest, president of Criminal Justice Journalists and Washington bureau chief of *The Crime Report*.

"From 1983 to 2011, jail budgets have jumped from \$5.7 billion to \$22 billion"

The U.S. justice system "needs some serious attention," said Julia Stasch, president of the John D. and

gun ownership. California already bars those who commit violent misdemeanor crimes from owning a firearm for ten years.

In responding to the high rate of incarceration and overcrowding problems, the state Senate Committee on Public Safety requires that legislation be scrutinized for its impact on the prison system, says St. John.

"Since February, the prison population has been within required limits, and legislative staff members now say that the state must only show it can keep crowding down." St. John notes.

"Issues of overcrowding are now evolving into broader concerns about the length of sentences and purpose of incarceration," said the spokesperson for committee Chairwoman Loni Hancock, D-Oakland.

Passage of new felonies does not mean prison overcrowding is no longer important, just that new crimes are more so, said Tim Yarnan, lobbyist for the Association of Deputy District Attorneys.

If approved by legislators, the bills would still need the signature of Gov. Jerry Brown, who has recently vetoed bills that would have created three new misdemeanors.

## 'High Emotion' Violence Prompts Flood Of Get-Tough Bills in State Legislature

'Since February, the prison population has been within required limits'

By **Thomas Gardner**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Recent violent events have prompted state legislators to propose bills that would create new felony criminal offenses, potentially putting more people in prison, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

This comes just seven months after California reduced its prison population to a level deemed acceptable by the federal courts, according to the report.

"It is usually the 'high-profile, high emotion' cases that override concerns about prison crowding"

"It is usually the 'high-profile, high emotion' cases that override concerns about prison crowding," said Lizzie Buchen, state coordinator for Californians United for a Responsible Budget, according to Paige St. John, reporting from Sacramento for the

*Times*.

High-profile cases this year include serial murders in Orange County and a shooting rampage at the University of California at Santa Barbara in which six people were killed.

"Legislators are willing to overlook the potential impact on the prison population when it is something as emotional as that," says Buchen, the *Times* reports.

Four new felony offenses are being proposed:

SB 333 by Sen. Cathleen Galgiani, D-Stockton, would make possession of any "date rape" drug a felony punishable by up to three years in the county jail.

SB 722 by Sen. Patricia Bates, R-Laguna Niguel, would require fugitive sex offenders to spend up to three years in prison, thereby addressing the problem of GPS monitor disabling and circumvention.

AB 256 by Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer, D-Los Angeles, would make it a felony to alter or delete video evidence, with a punishment of up to five years in prison.

SB 347 by Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara, would add theft of a gun or bringing ammunition onto school grounds to the list of misdemeanors that can block



# Oakland Mayor Picks Former SQ News Staffer

*Garry 'Malachi' Scott Appointed to Violence Prevention Committee*

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf is putting to good use the insight of paroled former *San Quentin News* Sports Editor Garry "Malachi" Scott.

"I think he will bring an authentic and wise viewpoint of how we can prevent our young

people from committing crime in the first place and how we can also welcome back people out of prison in a way that supports them not recidivating," Schaaf told *Oakland Tribune* columnist Tammerlin Drummond.

"So many people are trusting me to make decisions that impact so many lives. I have to be

able to honor that. I really, really care about the community," said Scott at a Kid CAT banquet inside San Quentin.

He was invited to meet with Schaaf while she was running for mayor, along with other formerly incarcerated people, to discuss reentry issues, according to Drummond's article.

Scott saw Schaaf again when

she attended his birthday party, which was a tree-planting community event in North Oakland to celebrate Scott's first birthday in society after serving 15 years for second-degree murder.

Later Scott's name came to mind when Schaaf was thinking of whom to appoint to a Measure Z Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention oversight committee.

The nine-member committee makes recommendations to the City Council on what to do with approximately \$22 million annually. It also oversees how the funds are spent.

The money involved is collected from a public safety tax. Sixty percent of that automatically goes to police-related programs, Drummond reported.

"None of the money is coming to me," joked Scott.

In an interview shortly before his parole, Scott had said, "My goal is to have a successful transition into society, earn a living, volunteer my time working with at-risk youth and find a good church."

The 49ers fan worked for the Oakland Raiders on a volunteer basis. He was also a sportscaster for the Cal Berkeley Bears.

He said there was a fire inside him that called him to use the Restorative Justice skills he learned in prison to help troubled youth.

Scott now works fulltime as a peer counselor for West Side Community Service, which is a mental wellness organization that serves youth. He also goes to the Alameda County Juvenile Hall in San Leandro to help facilitate Restorative Justice circles to assist juveniles coping with life after release, according to Drummond's article.

Scott is a cofounder of the North Oakland Restorative Justice Council. The volunteer organization hosts block parties in North Oakland at sites where people have been killed in homicides and holds peace walks. The idea is to give people in neighborhoods traumatized by violence a way to come together so they can begin to heal, Drummond wrote.

Scott has been to Washington, D.C., to talk about criminal justice reform with Roy Hamilton and Congress members Tony Cardenas (D-Rep. Virginia) and Bobby Scott (D-Rep. California).

Additionally, he is part of the Free Hunger Program with Auntie Francine; RJ Oakland Youth with Fania Davis; and Pueblo People United for a Better Life in Oakland.

"Doing Restorative Justice is a part of my healing process," said Scott. "Killing a man left a hole in my heart. What I get out of helping others is healing."



Heidi, Garry "Malachi" Scott and Javier sharing a meal

File Photo

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### *I'll Rather Have Family Visits Instead*

By P. Brooke,  
SQ Prisoner

CDCR started a program called Family Visiting in either the late 60s or early 70s. During Family Visiting inmates could spend three days and two nights in a home-style setting. Under this program families could find a closeness that one could not get in normal visiting. But, in the 90s Family Visiting ended for any inmate with a life term; the very families who benefited the most from the program were left out of it. Inmates who had determinate sentences, say five, 10, 20 years continued to be permitted to use the Family Visiting program. Nevertheless, CDCR claims it is a supporter of building strong family ties; so they say.

However as of late, condom containers packed with condoms for the unsupervised taking have been placed in various places in San Quentin. All the while, CDCR states that they

do not condone sex between inmates; moreover, it is illegal. Would CDCR give a loaded weapon to a Death Row inmate and tell him not to harm anyone with it? Of course not. By installing condom containers packed with condoms all around this prison implies that it is ok for inmates to have sex with each other. On the flip side, CDCR claims they are trying to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. It is hypocritical to say it is illegal for inmates to have sex with each other and then provide something that is used for what you say you cannot do. Instead of appearing to allow homosexual activities, start up family visiting for lifers again. It is the family structure that needs to be strengthened, not homosexuality. Yes, I am a Christian, a child of God and am 100 percent against this abomination that CDCR is doing. Turn to God and stop this thing.

## CDCR Inspector General Barton Offers Frank Views Before Joining Planned TEDx Event

*Continued from Page 1*

"I work for what's best for the State of California," said Barton. "The governor can't fire me once I'm confirmed, so I can criticize the department."

Barton has worked as a deputy inside a jail as well as a prosecutor. He has even traveled to Rwanda after the genocide. His journeys and background have given him perspective.

"The victim's family and offender's family are crying on both sides," said Barton. "Our system isn't set up for justice. How do you expect people to respect the system if there isn't any justice in it?"

Barton sat in a circle with Delia Cohen, the TEDx event sponsor, inside members of the TEDx committee and a few other incarcerated Americans.

He discussed his background, which is on YouTube, and several big ideas he could share, such as hope in redemption.

A murder left Barton's mother single with four kids by time he was 5. They were the minorities in a neighborhood filled with Puerto Ricans.

"I thought it was normal to fight everyday going to and from school," said Barton.

His mother remarried when Barton was 10, and they moved to Fresno. He didn't get along with his stepfather, and Barton became emancipated at 16.

In high school Barton got into several sports, including wrestling. His coach instilled in him the idea of self-discipline.

Determined to work his way through college, Barton worked nights in a jail. He started working for the sheriff's department permanently after graduation.

"I didn't want to be a police officer to arrest people; I wanted to be a police officer to help people," said Barton.

A better way to help dawned on him while watching court proceedings.

"Prosecutors have all the power. If you want to change the system, you have to have prosecutors that have that mindset," said Barton.

He earned a law degree at UC Davis and became a prosecutor, who would recommend diversion instead of prison time for youth.

"I haven't gone to the other side. It's all the same side," said Barton. "If I come to the belief the person is innocent ... then my job is to dismiss the case."

Outside the prosecutor's office, Barton was part of groups like the Police Activity League, The Victim/Witness Auxiliary board and Community Action Against Drugs and Alcohol (CAADAA).

"It was my effort to prevent people from coming into the system," said Barton.

He then became Supervising Assistant Inspector General for the Central Region of California. Now, he is the Inspector General.

California Penal Code 6126 lists his duties.

He cannot order the CDCR to do anything; however, his office does have some influence. Every new warden has to get a recommendation from Barton.

"We ask every new warden, 'What are you going to do to support programs?'" said Barton.

He also has the power of the pen. His reports end up in the media.

As a last resort, Barton can go to the legislature and re-

quest authority.

Plus, the Inspector General can enter any California prison at anytime, talk to anybody and look at any logs. He has the power to arrest anyone who tries to stop him and charge them with a misdemeanor. Getting a visit from the IG office usually solves the problem.

"We don't get involved on an individual complaining that he doesn't like his sandwich," said Barton. "It has to be an actual injustice that needs to be corrected."

Barton believes in the power of rehabilitation. His TEDx talk may center on the three-step process he says is needed.

Step one is getting people in a place where they are open to getting their triggers switched.

"It's pretty hard to get someone to be self-aware in overcrowded conditions," said Barton.

Second, is to give incarcerated Americans the opportunity to help them change, ie provide the space.

Third is providing the support.

"If you don't give people hope, then there is no reason to change," said Barton.

Barton talked about how Rwandans are moving forward after the genocide.

"They saw atrocious acts that make your crimes look like nothing," said Barton. "Their society abhors violence because it was so bad. They are pacifist."

Cohen added, "I never felt any sense that there was ever a genocide over there."

Barton talked of seeing incarcerated Rwandans do a dance where the officers joined in.

"That's an amazing mindset... They see them as future neighbors," he said.



Photo by Eddie Herena

Brian Asey, Delia Cohen, Shadeed "Sha" Wallace-Stepter, Inspector General Robert A. Barton and Nou Thao

# 'It's Time to Close These Immigration Prisons'

*'A boy no older than 5 came up and hugged my leg ... and asked, "Are you here to get us out of jail?"'*

By Wesley R. Eisinger  
Staff Writer

A congressman who toured an immigration prison says he found appallingly bad conditions and calls for major changes in how America treats undocumented aliens.

"It is time to close these prisons and bring humanity into the lives of the women and children who came to seek more of it than they'd been offered at home," Rep. Raul M. Grijalva wrote in an article for *The Guardian*.

"I went to see for myself the conditions that the women and children incarcerated there face first hand - and what I saw was nothing short of heartbreaking," said Grijalva, D-Arizona. He toured the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas, with a congressional delegation.

"Should women and children who risk their lives fleeing to escape poverty and violence be put in for-profit prison?" Grijalva asked. "We proclaim to the world that

those facing credible harm in their homelands can find refuge in America."

Grijalva wrote, "Bungalows house multiple families per room and with a communal shower and no privacy." They have a lack of medical care. "Some kids as old as 7 or 8 actually regressed back to wearing diapers as a result of their captivity."

"Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) pays \$325.69 per day per detainee to the Corrections Corporation of America," the con-

gressman reported.

"But over the past 11 years, 32 people have died in the 'care' of Corrections Corporation of America's facilities. Seven were suicides, and the rest resulted from a lack of medical attention," he added.

"They are here to find refuge from horrifying conditions. They seek out Border Patrol agents - walk right up to them - and ask for our help," he wrote.

Until a legally required hearing, asylum seekers are allowed to live in the United

States on their own. "We're not supposed to be holding them in prison facilities at all," he said.

"To fix this, we must remove profit motives from incarceration in our society. To Corrections Corporation of America, these aren't asylum seekers, they're literally the company's bottom line," the report said.

Grijalva said as he was getting ready to leave, "a boy no older than 5 came up and hugged my leg ... and asked, 'Are you here to get us out of jail?'"

## Securus Buys JPay; Prison Industrial Complex Consolidates

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Securus Technologies, a leader in the prison payphone industry, recently signed a deal to purchase JPay, Inc., the *IT Business Net* reported.

JPay leads the market in technology that provides electronic funds transfers, payments, email, entertainment and educational apps to prisoners in more than 30 state prison systems.

"It's a really smart move for Securus to buy them out," Miguel Saucedo told an online reporter for *Truthout*. Saucedo's brother is incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections. "They will completely monopolize the busi-

ness; a real model for the prison industrial complex."

According to *Truthout*, the prison payphone industry generates an estimated \$1.2 billion a year in revenue.

"This transaction thrusts Securus into the fastest growing segments in corrections: payments, email and most recently, inmate tablets," Rick Smith, CEO of Securus Technologies, told *IT Business Net*. "We announced the transaction on April 14, 2015, and since that time we secured the debt and equity funding and necessary approvals from the state and federal regulatory bodies and closed our transaction."

Smith said with the signing of this deal his company can

offer almost anything that is high-tech and software-based for correctional facilities to "operate a modern prison or jail."

"We are always eager to expand our footprint," said Ryan Shapiro, JPay's CEO. "Our products deliver tremendous value to every constitu-

ent; the prison staff, family and friends and of course, the inmate. Our focus is to develop groundbreaking products, then gain adoption on a massive scale. With Securus behind us, we can now make that happen in a fraction of the time."

According to *IT Business*

*Net*, JPay was founded in 2002 as a payments company and later evolved to include a digital platform.

Securus provides its services to more than 2,600 law enforcement and correctional facilities and to more than 1 million inmates across North America.

## FCC Urged to Lower In-State Phone Rates

Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) continues to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make changes to regulations on in-state calls carried by service providers in the prison pay-phone industry.

In a recent letter to FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch, PPI expressed gratitude for work done by the FCC to lower phone rates on interstate calls made from correctional facilities. The letter included articles from editorials detailing rate reduction around the country.

"I believe these stories will be particularly informative as you consider further regulation," wrote Bernadette Rabuy, PPI's policy and communications associate. "I urge the FCC to expand your protection to more families by regulating in-state phone rates and ancillary

fees."

Some fees are paid by telephone service providers to correctional facilities in exchange for the contract to do business with the facility, *The Boston Globe* reported.

According to *The Globe*, "These commission costs are then transferred to the customers in the form of phone charges that can run more than \$1 per minute."

"The (Colorado) prison system in 2014 took in \$1.53 million more than it cost to run the system, resulting in a 58 percent profit margin," *The Denver Post* editorial board reported earlier this year.

According to *The Post*, the law and other policies prohibit phone companies from "charging far in excess of what a service costs."

In 2013, the FCC made reforms in the industry, one of which was to place a cap of 25 cents per minute on interstate collect calls made from correctional facilities.

Correctional telephone service providers often charge exorbitant fees to increase profits, circumventing regulatory reforms, critics say. "Securus is already making massive profits off of prisoners and their families," the *Huffington Post* reported.

Securus is moving beyond the telephone market, to purchase the company JPay, which provides video visiting, electronic funds transfers, email and prison-approved tablets for inmates to play games and listen to music, according to the *Huffington Post*.

-Kevin D. Sawyer

## Prison Phone Services Handle \$1.2 Billion a Year

When someone is locked up, it has a major impact on the prisoner and his or her family and friends. It's made worse by the high cost of phone calls they must pay to stay in touch, *The New York Times* reported.

It was reported that inmate calling services, which are dominated by a small number of phone companies, rake in \$1.2 billion annually. These private companies provide phone service to inmates in U.S. jails and prisons in every state.

"Rates and fees (are) far in excess of those established by regular commercial providers," *The Times* reported. "Now, after years of complaints from prisoners' groups and families of the incarcerated, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is investigating the financial intricacies of the industry, which has been largely unregulated."

*The Times* reported the FCC found that nearly half a billion dollars in concession fees, also known as "kickbacks," were paid to correctional institutions in 2013.

"The agency (FCC) is expected to rule this year on whether to ban the concession fees and limit the cost of prison phone calls," *The Times* reported in March 2015.

According to *The Times*, Global Tel-Link Corporation

and Securus Technologies are the two dominant phone companies in the inmate-calling service industry. Global Tel-Link controls half of the market for jails and prisons.

"Richard A. Smith, Securus' chief executive, said in a letter to regulators that his company had paid \$1.3 billion in concession fees to prisons and local governments over the past decade," *The Times* reported.

Last year Global Tel-Link's phone traffic reached 3 billion minutes with 215 million calls made from jails and prisons, it was reported.

Securus, second in the industry to Global Tel-Link, charges a variety of fees for basic phone calls and services, including a fee to close an account, *The Times* reported.

"The fees make up an estimated 40 percent of the average prison phone bill," according to the Prison Policy Initiative, a nonprofit organization, *The Times* reported.

The FCC last year placed a cap on the interstate calls. In response to the cap, according to *The Times*, phone companies increased the charges on intrastate calls made from jails and prisons. These calls, it was reported, make up the majority - 90 percent - of calls made from jails and prisons.

-Kevin D. Sawyer

## Despite FCC Order to Cap Prices, Securus Profits Jump From \$87 Million to \$114.6 Million

Prison pay-phone giant Securus Technologies profits continue to rise in the face of an earlier order by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which capped the price of interstate telephone calls made from correctional facilities, *Truth-out.org* reports.

### LIMIT

An impending ruling by the FCC that may limit how much the prison pay-phone industry is allowed to charge customers (incarcerated people, their family and friends) has not slowed Securus' growth, according *Truth-out*.

"In leaked documents from a presentation to investors acquired by *The Huffington Post*, Securus portrays itself as a company clearly in the black," *Truth-out* reported in July. "In 2014, they made

\$114.6 million, up from \$87 million the previous year."

### REVENUES

According to *Truth-out*, the prison pay-phone industry generates an estimated \$1.2 billion a year in revenue. More than \$100 million of it is paid back to states in commissions, also known as "kickbacks," for the right to contracts to provide phone service to inmates.

Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) reported that Securus no longer pays commissions on interstate calls. It said the FCC issued an order that now prohibits prison pay-phone service providers from passing off to consumers the cost of commissions paid to correctional facilities as if they were a valid expense in doing business.

"Securus exemplifies the in-

dustry's obscene penchant for squeezing profits by fleecing their customers..." said Peter Wagner, executive director of Prison Policy Initiative. As explained in another recent article, "Securus' business model is less about providing phone service than it is about harvesting fees."

### COST

According to PPI, the difference between Securus' cost to provide service and what it charges customers was 51 percent.

"That's not only unprecedented, it's significantly higher than companies typically known for having high profit margins like Apple," Wagner said.

Securus provides phone services to 2,600 prisons and jails in 47 states, PPI reported.

-Kevin D. Sawyer



# Time to Reshape Your Narrative

By Juan Moreno Haines  
Managing Editor

"If we're not shaping our own narrative, then we're giving into what's out there about who you are," inmate Emile DeWeaver told a classroom of convicts, many of whom are murderers.

DeWeaver said that he believes inmates have the power to change how they are seen by the public by telling their story,

their way.

"I complained a lot about the law and how it disenfranchised people," DeWeaver said. "But what are we doing to inject ourselves into the conversation? Crafting an honest narrative may help someone do that."

DeWeaver told the class that he was confident that they could tell their story and connect with readers by finding common ground and focusing on human

elements all people share.

"Imagine if everyone were telling their story in an authentic way," DeWeaver said. "That would be a powerful force against the dehumanizing narratives that fuel mass incarceration. That's the most important thing for these guys." He added, "Lasting rehabilitation begins with understanding that no matter how reprehensible your past actions were, you are human,

and you've always been human. That makes you valuable."

The first writing prompt for the class was, "Why are you here?"

"I started out just like any other family," inmate Michael Macky said of his own story. "I started out good and free. What went wrong is my parenting suffered. I needed extended family support. Everyone needs someone to lean on," he said.

Macky is serving a 75-year-to-life sentence for murder/robbery.

"The most important thing I learned from the class is unity," Macky said. "I learned that I'm not in this alone, which is the first time I've experienced this on this scale. This class makes me feel like I can be myself—who I truly am at 34 years old. I haven't had that feeling for 13 years—the amount of time I've been in prison."

DeWeaver has had the opportunity to share his own story both with public officials, including State Senator Loni Hancock and Congresswoman Jackie Speier, and through the online magazine *Drunk Monkeys*.

DeWeaver said publishing parts of his life story online has allowed him to better connect with his daughter and has also broadened the perspective of others who have read his story, like the thinking of a mother whose niece was murdered.

"I'm amazed that people are amazed by our stories," DeWeaver said.

In explaining some of the obstacles to creating a new narrative, DeWeaver said students should understand society's anger and fear regarding the crime of murder, especially while remembering their victims never had a second chance.

"We have debt that we cannot pay. But, I personally will not stop trying to pay it," DeWeaver said. "There are not a lot of ways for me to make amends, so it is my personal mission to do as

much good as I could do. This is a part of me trying to introduce good into the world and to influence as many men to do the same."

"I think it's very structured and insightful. DeWeaver broke down a lot of the structure in how to tell our stories, and where to begin," inmate David Le said. "Before this class, I thought I was communicating my ideas as clearly as I could.

After the class, he gave me tools like universal needs and shared values, the main things he expressed in storytelling. That's something I knew but didn't take a look at until this class."

According to Le, the likelihood that he will appear before the parole board has increased when Governor Jerry Brown signed into law SB 261 in October.

SB 261 allows those who were between age 18 to 22 at the time of committing a crime to appear before the parole board. A previous law, SB 260, only applied to those under the age of 18. Le has been in prison for a murder committed at age 21. He is now 31.

Le, who arrived at San Quentin in 2013, is working as a teacher's aide and is enrolled in the prison's college program. He said he also participates in several self-help groups.

DeWeaver encouraged the students to understand basic human needs like self-esteem, belonging and safety as tools of communication and human connection.

"We have to figure out who we are and where we want to be," DeWeaver said. "Writing is a great tool to do this. I want to give people the opportunity to say in their own words, to say why they did what they did, and be able to communicate that to the public. In the long run we'll be able to come up with human solutions to our country's mass incarceration problem."

## Diamonds in the Rough

By Aminah Dorsey  
Contributing Writer

You see them, the hot pink uniforms, escorted to and from chow and meds. You know, those few outside in the 95 degree heat because they have to get their fresh air when they can.

It's no secret; we all carry some form of mental, emotional, or psychological baggage.

However, what differentiates every individual is how they manage to cope with it, the grief, fear love, longing, shame, and guilt. Tangible weights no woman should be made to carry alone.

For far too many years, program failures were simply "punished" by being smothered with rule violation write-ups which ultimately resulted in them having their privileges taken away, a situation that is called "C/C Status" and designated to wear hot pink uniforms. It is a distorted belief system that discourages them, resulting in an increase in broken windows, fighting, and substance abuse. Their self-defeating behaviors had them rooted on the proverbial merry-go-round of self-sabotage.

As sure as the world changes around us, so must we change the way in which we approach rehabilitation.

In July, the C/C pilot program, a program for prisoners who have had their privileges

taken away due to penalties, was activated at Central California Women's Facility.

The voluntary, eight-week program is held on the general population facility yards Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5:45-7:45 p.m. The program focus is on substance abuse, anger management, criminal thinking, family relationships and conflict resolution.

On the first day of class, most of the ladies, dressed in hot pink, admitted to attending for the sole purpose of getting off C/C Status early. There was so much resistance and hostility.

However, by the second week there was a remarkable shift; the group had transformed drastically as every participant was eager, willing, and open to maximizing the program to their greatest potential.

As so happens, the recipe for trauma for most incarcerated women is universal: substance abuse, anger, self-esteem, acceptance, love, and belonging.

As a facilitator and executive body member with the upcoming Live, Learn, and Prosper Program, I must admit it has been an honor to be given the opportunity to sit down next to these women and to get to know them on an intimate level.

There is great potential in this C/C rehabilitation program. I have no doubt that upon graduating from this program

the women will be confident and comfortable in their abilities to rise above any future adversities they may face. One participant remarked, "Before, I would fight and not consider the consequences. Today, I am a different woman and I owe my growth to this program."

Make no assumption; aftercare is essential and many need it after the program.

A participant stated, "I am tired of the life I've been living. I want another program after we graduate from this one."

Senior prison administrator P. Cerrillo, Correctional Counselor III, has assured all participants that after successful completion their needs will be assessed and they will be given priority placement into the programs that best suit their individual needs.

It's one thing to face the ugly truth about yourself when no one is watching, but it's something else altogether when you're able to use these shameful experiences to encourage and motivate others in your community.

Thanks in large part to our prison administration, no stone will be left unturned in our quest to help the women of Central California Women's Facility shine bright as the diamonds they are.

Congratulations graduates. Ladies, you're worth it!

## The Bitter Truth Behind High Cost of Incarceration

By Juan Moreno Haines  
Managing Editor

Four decades of high incarceration rates in the U.S. are "destroying families and communities, especially those that are already vulnerable to health disparities, violence and lack of opportunities," according to a September 2015 report led by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. The effects of mass incarceration, the report contin-

ues, endure "for generations and are felt most deeply by women, low-income families and communities of color."

Nearly one in every 100 American adults is currently behind bars, a rate 5 to 10 times higher than in Western Europe and other democracies, according to a 2014 National Academy of Sciences, *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States*. The annual cost of incarceration in the U.S. is about \$80 billion, topping spending on housing, transportation and higher education, according to the Ella Baker Center report, entitled *Who Pays?: The True Cost of Incarceration on Families*.

About 2.7 million minors in the U.S. have at least one parent in prison, according to the Pew Center on the States' report *Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effect on Economic Mobility*. The rate of children who have a parent in prison differs dramatically by race. More than 11 percent of Black children and 3.5 percent of Hispanic children have at least one incarcerated

parent, compared to 1.8 percent of White children.

Nearly a third of the incarcerated individuals surveyed said their imprisonment hurt their parent-child relationship or that imprisonment caused separation or divorce in their families. Research shows that longer sentences increased the likelihood of dissolution of relationships. However, the same research also shows that when families kept in contact through regular visits and phone calls, their relationships became stronger, and they stayed together.

*The True Cost of Incarceration on Families* reports that nearly two-thirds of respondents with an incarcerated family member were unable to meet their family's basic needs. Respondents cited significant costs related to phone calls and visits about one-third of the time. *The Prison Policy Initiative* estimates that added telephone fees constituted more than one-third of the annual \$1 billion that families pay to call family members in prison.

Healthy family relationships and economic stability have been shown to reduce recidivism, according to *The True Cost of Incarceration on Families*.

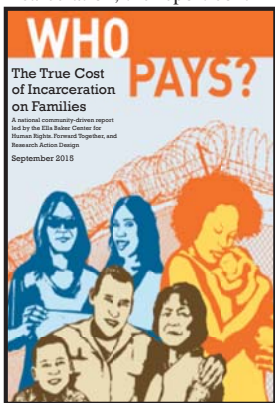
**"More than half of people in U.S. jails and prisons have mental health issues"**

More than half of people in U.S. jails and prisons have mental health issues, and "these issues are often exacerbated during imprisonment because prisons and jails are unequipped to provide adequate or appropriate health services and treatment," the report reads. "Participants shared that health impacts in their families were intergenerational and sometimes had the most severe consequences for children of incarcerated par-

ents." More than three-fourths of survey respondents said finding work after prison was "very difficult or nearly impossible." A 20-year longitudinal study, for example, found that prison time reduced an employee's wages by up to 20 percent.

More than one in five survey respondents reported that their conviction had resulted directly in a denial of some type of public assistance, such as general assistance, housing or nutrition assistance through federal programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Nearly one-third of those denied had families with children and said that they most often were denied food stamps.

According to the *National Institute of Justice Collateral Consequences Inventory*, there are more than 44,000 federal, state and local restrictions placed on people with a criminal conviction, including licensing bans, street vending and cab driving.



## National Runaway Prevention Month

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

November is designated as National Runaway Prevention Month to highlight the struggles of homeless youth. Each year, between 1.6- and 2.8-million youth run away from home because of child abuse, neglect, and parental substance abuse.

"They struggle to survive from day to day, doing what they can to secure food and temporary shelter. Most of these youth are on the streets because their home environments were too much to endure," according to a statement by Larkin Street Youth, a nonprofit based in San Francisco that serves homeless and runaway youths.

The runaway month is spearheaded by the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) and National Network for Youth (NN4Y).

Their goals is twofold:

1. To raise awareness of the runaway and homeless youth crisis and the issues that these young people face.

2. To educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in ending youth homelessness.

As an ongoing year-to-year campaign in November, people are encouraged to participate in a Social Media Day of Action and the Green Light Project, in recognition of National Runaway Prevention Month. The Green Light project also distributes green light bulbs as a symbol of youth homelessness and supporters are encouraged to turn on their green porch light to raise awareness and show support for runaway youths.

In 2014, special month's theme was "Piecing it all Together," designed to represent

"The overlap between various at-risk and underserved youth populations. While many people tend to think of various youth populations as separate, the fact is that issue areas such as bullying, abuse, youth violence, human trafficking, LGBTQ, foster care, substance abuse, and the juvenile justice system are often interconnected," stated National Runaway Safeline.

NRS pieces together the different services available and gathers data to identify trends in runaway youths and youth homelessness.

It also provides a crisis intervention hotline that directs runaway and homeless youths to shelters and counseling services across America.

To learn more, call 1-800-RUNAWAY, access 1800RUNAWAY.org, or text 66008.

## Kid CAT Begins Its 3rd Annual Bay Area Hygiene Drive for Homeless Children

By Miguel Quezada  
Staff Writer

Kid CAT hosts the third annual "Bay Area Hygiene Drive for Homeless Youth's." Donate and make a difference!

This year hygiene products and money raised will be donated to At the Crossroads, Larkin Street, Homeless Youth Alliance and Compass Family Services located in the Bay Area.

Kid CAT thanks the San Quentin community for their generous contributions. Together we have collected 675 hygiene kits.

The following groups have previously contributed.

- The Richmond Project
- CGA Criminal and Gang Members Anonymous at San Quentin
- SQUIRES San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources Experiences and Studies
- GRIP Guiding Rage into Power
- AFC Alliance for Change
- VGSQ Veterans Group of San Quentin
- Restorative Justice



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Hygiene products collected in 2013

- The Last Mile
- American Indian Group of San Quentin

Here is how you can participate:

North Seg and East Block:

In December, Trust Account Withdrawal Order forms will be passed out in the housing units. The Trust Account Withdrawal Order forms will be picked up on Dec. 7. There is a \$5 minimum donation limit.

H-Unit North and West Block:  
On Dec. 13 between the hours of 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., drop off

your hygiene products to the lower yard ARC trailer. If you are donating on behalf of a self-help group, please state the name of the group when you make the delivery.

Please do not donate state-issued or open products, only sealed items purchased from the canteen or quarterly packages. Individual items are accepted or donate hygiene kits that include: One soap, one toothpaste, one toothbrush, one shampoo, one deodorant, one lotion, one soap dish one toothbrush cap.

## Kid CAT Speaks

### Illinois Limits Placing Juveniles in Adult Trials

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner has signed legislation limiting the transfer of certain juveniles into adult court.

#### TRANSFERS

The measure ends automatic adult court transfers for 15-year-olds. It also limits the transfer to adult court of 16- and 17-year-olds charged with first degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault or aggravated battery with a firearm.

"The legislation ensures juveniles have their cases heard before a Juvenile Court judge who can consider mitigating factors such as background, mental capacity and culpability before deciding whether the case should be transferred to adult court," *The Associated Press* reported.

"As a Juvenile Court judge, there are many more services we can provide in juvenile court," said Associate Judge Ray Ca-

vanaugh of 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court.

"When people are younger, it's easier to modify their behavior. You might be able to change their home environment, might be able to change school environment. There's a much higher likelihood of doing that in Juvenile Court than in the adult system."

#### LEGISLATION

Rauner also signed legislation that will stop sending offenders to Juvenile Justice Department facilities for misdemeanor offenses.

The law will cut in half the number of juvenile offenders in the county who are sent automatically to adult court for lesser crimes, according to Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, who lobbied for the legislation.

—John Lam

### Philadelphia Lawyers Work to Help Youth Offenders in Adult Courts

Two Philadelphia attorneys are taking innovative approaches to assist youth offenders who are referred to adult court.

Lauren Fine and Joanna Visser Adjoian, co-founders of the Youth Sentencing and Reentry Project, are dedicated to improving the outlook for youths in the adult criminal justice system by advocating for alternatives to prison, the *Inquirer* reported.

The two attorneys discovered the needs of families and children who didn't know how to express their circumstances — and attorneys who didn't know how to represent their clients — while working together at the Juvenile Law Center.

They worked to develop a multi-pronged approach that includes casework, policy advocacy, training, and referral services. Both attorneys quit their jobs and launched their non-profit, the *Inquirer* reported.

"There's such a tendency in the criminal justice system to have this dichotomous victim-offender relationship," Visser Adjoian said. "But it's not that clear-cut. These families can carry both labels: 'victim' and 'offender.'"

One client, a 17-year-old pregnant foster youth, had been a

victim of sexual and domestic abuse she was arrested on a gun charge.

"YSRP compiled a 65-page report documenting her history and offering options that would keep her with her child. It included two letters of acceptance into inpatient mother-child drug treatment programs YSRP had located. Her case remains in adult court, but there's hope the judge will draw on the work in sentencing," the *Inquirer* stated.

"It's humanizing," said Fine. "That's the essence of what we're trying to do."

Judge Benjamin Lerner, who presides over decertification hearings in Philadelphia, said psychiatric evaluations tend to be his most important tool. But the YSRP reports have been helpful, he said.

Philadelphia has the most juvenile lifers than any other state — about 20 percent of the nation's total. In 2012, 375 juveniles, ages 11 to 17, were sentenced as adults, the *Inquirer* reported.

The District Attorney's Office said 305 juvenile cases were charged in adult court in 2014; 111 continued there and 141 were moved to Juvenile Court.

—John Lam

## New York Governor Uses Executive Order To Send Juveniles to Special Facilities

Despite Raise the Age legislation failing to reach his desk, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo made an executive order to move 16- and 17-year-olds held in adult prisons to special facilities designed for youths.

"To the dismay of the Raise the Age NY Campaign and its supporters, lawmakers did not reach an agreement on changing the age of criminal responsibility in New York," the *Legislative Gazette* reported.

During his State of the State Address, Governor Cuomo had prioritized raising the ages of criminal responsibility from 16 and 17 to age 18.

"We did not reach an agreement on something called Raise the Age, which is a proposal that I had made in the State of the State. The executive will on its own raise the age of people in state prison," Cuomo said.

"Right now 16- and 17-year olds are going to state prisons, and that, I believe, is an intolerable situation. So by executive action we will take 16- and 17-year olds out of state prisons and put them in separate facilities, which will be designed and managed by the Department of Corrections and OCFS."

"While Cuomo's executive order will prevent youth from being housed in adult prisons, it fails to meet what the legislation called for — a change to the age of criminal responsibility," the *Gazette* reported.

"Gov. Cuomo's failure to fulfill his public commitment to pass comprehensive raise the age legislation jeopardizes public safety and lets down children like Kalief Browder who spend years in the adult system for simple mistakes," reads a statement by the Raise the Age Co-

alition.

"For three years, Kalief Browder, who was 16 when arrested, was held at Rikers Island in New York City, waiting for a trial that never happened. After two years in solitary confinement, his charges were dropped and he returned home. He never recovered from the psychological effects of his detention and committed suicide," the *Gazette* reported.

"I am dismayed that New York state did not raise the age of criminal responsibility and left over 33,000 youth annually subject to arrest and prosecution as adults," said Angelo Pinto, of the Correctional Association of New York. "Kalief Browder's recent suicide illustrates how the adult criminal justice system destroys young people's minds and bodies."

—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.**



# New Look at Stanford Experiment on Prison Cruelty

*'Don't blame the evil lurking in individuals; blame the institutional setting itself'*

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

A new film, "The Stanford Prison Experiment," is inspired by one of the darkest chapters in modern experimental psychology, according to a columnist for *New Yorker*.

Conducted in 1971, the elaborate experiment at role-playing supposedly showed that middle-class college students, divided into roles of prisoners and guards with little or no instructions, began almost immediately to behave in extremely abusive or submissive ways. It is cited as evidence of the savage impulses that lurk within us all. But the columnist offers a contrary view.

Maria Konnikova wrote that the real lesson of the Stanford Prison Experiment is that extreme behavior flows from ex-

treme institutions, not from human nature. "The lesson of Stanford (Prison Experiment) isn't that any random human being is capable of descending into sadism and tyranny. It's that certain institutions and environments demand those behaviors—and perhaps, can change them," Konnikova wrote.

Konnikova writes a weekly column on [www.newyorker.com](http://www.newyorker.com) focusing on psychology and science.

She said the confusion about what really happened in 1971 was the result of premature exposure. Konnikova said that the appeal of the experiment came from its seemingly simple setup, and the compelling initial results were quickly overpublicized. The publication of a "methodologically and analytically rigorous" report came

later. By then it was too late.

The premature disclosure convinced people that the Stanford experiment underscored the findings of the earlier Milgram obedience study and showed "the ease with which regular people, if given too much power, could transform into ruthless oppressors."

The Milgram study demonstrated that ordinary people, if encouraged by an authority figure, are willing to torture their peers with what they believed to be painful and potentially lethal levels of electricity.

However, Konnikova pointed out, the fake "Stanford County Prison" was a "heavily manipulated environment," and the Stanford participants acted in ways that were largely predetermined by the experiment's express goal, to evoke the experience of working and living in

a brutal jail.

Professor Philip Zimbardo, the experiment's lead investigator, set the guards' priorities, including the booking procedures that were meant to "humiliate" and "emasculate" the prisoners. Zimbardo and another researcher also played the roles of the prison superintendent and warden.

In addition, the students self-selected to participate in "a psychological study of prison life," she said. A 2007 study showed that people who chose to participate in prison studies were significantly more aggressive,

authoritarian, Machiavellian and narcissistic.

In contrast, in a 2001 study that sought to replicate the Stanford experiment without the pre-set expectations, the prisoners rebelled and took control of the guards' quarters on the sixth day. It became known as the BBC Prison Study.

"Taken together, these two studies don't suggest that we all have an innate capacity for tyranny or victim-hood. Instead, they suggest that our behavior largely conforms to our preconceived expectations," Konnikova said.

## Dealing With the Rising Call for More Expensive Kosher and Halal Meals

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

Nutritional care in the departments of corrections nationwide varies from state to state. However, one issue all states consistently struggle with is the cost of halal and kosher meals.

Before halal, which are Muslim meals, and kosher, which are Jewish meals, became standard in the corrections industry, many grievances were filed, often leading to litigation over not recognizing religious dietary standards.

More inmates in the U.S. are asking for halal and kosher meals. Because of this, the issues of cost and augmenting the kosher meals in a non-kosher kitchen have inspired discussion, writes Barbara Wakeen in the "Dietitian's Corner" of

the Association of Correctional Food Service Professionals' *Insider* magazine.

In California, kosher meals are pre-packaged and halal meats are purchased from certified vendors then dispensed to all the facilities statewide. These prices vary from \$2.60 to more than \$8 per meal.

In Los Angeles County, microwave meals are served in facilities. The prices range from \$2.82 to \$3.20 each, for lunch and dinner for the kosher meal.

Throughout the country where there are kosher residents in non-kosher facilities, frozen foods from companies such as Sysco are ordered. Often pre-packaged meals are acceptable; however the question of whether an institution is doing all that it can to observe strict religious diets is often the topic of discussion.

Kosher meals and halal meat are more expensive than regular state-issued foods. The reason is that approval of these meals requires a rabbi or Islamic authority to authorize kitchen and supervision practices, as well as slaughtering techniques according to religious jurisprudence.

Many facilities around the country have adopted the kosher and halal meal paradigm, but it did not come without serious struggle by inmates seeking to have observance of their religious practices acknowledged and allowed by their corrections departments.

Wakeen also wrote, "The Arizona Department of Corrections settled a lawsuit after eight years of litigation where the inmate agreed to accept a kosher diet as an acceptable alternative to halal meats."

## PRISONS SUED FOR VALLEY FEVER

### Four Inmates File Federal Civil Rights Action

By James King  
Journalism Guild Writer

Four inmates have filed federal civil rights lawsuits alleging that California prison officials knowingly exposed them to the fungal infection known as "valley fever."

Valley fever is an infection that develops when people breathe in *Coccidioides* fungal spores. Such spores are found in higher levels in the Central Valley. In 2011, 42.6 cases per 100,000 people have been reported in states where the disease has become epidemic. According to health officials, California has about 31 percent of the cases.

According to the *Fresno Bee*, one lawsuit states in part, "The American system of criminal justice requires that state correctional authorities carry out the exact sentence determined by the judicial process – no more and no less. Instead, Defendants

knowingly imposed on plaintiffs a lifelong, crippling, and sometimes fatal disease in addition to their lawfully determined sentences."

***"42.6 cases per 100,000 people have been reported in states where the disease has become epidemic"***

The lawsuits name the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, various state officials and various wardens as defendants.

The lawsuits state that studies show that Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians, particularly Filipinos, are especially susceptible to contracting valley fever.

The *Fresno Bee* reports that attorneys for the inmates say health officials have known about the risks of valley fever in the Central Valley for more than 50 years.

Though declining to comment on the specific litigation, prisons spokesman Luis Patino stated, "CDCR has been working to mitigate valley fever for years. We have put in place numerous measures in our prisons to reduce the amount of dust, and the movement of dust, particularly into buildings. We have also moved inmates deemed at higher risk and who choose to move out of the two prisons in the valley fever endemic zone."

Since 2005, 70 inmates died as a result of valley fever, said Jason Feldman, one of the attorneys filing lawsuits.

In a response to court-ordered action, over 2,100 inmates have been transferred from Central Valley state prisons.

### SB 261:

## Raising the Age of Youth Offender Parole From 18 Through 22. What You Need to Know

Gov. Brown signed SB 261 into law on Oct. 3, 2015. What is this about?

In 2014, a new law was enacted: "SB 260," also called "Youth Offender Parole." That law was for people who were under the age of 18 at the time of their crimes. SB 260/Youth Offender Parole created a special youth offender parole process. The guide has all the details of how it works.

SB 261 expands SB 260. It makes the law also apply to people who were 18, 19, 20, 21, or 22 at the time of their crimes.

Who is eligible?

Except for the age, the same criteria are used in SB 261 and SB 260. People age 14 through 22 at the time of the crime will be eligible for Youth Offender Parole. There are more details about eligibility in the Guide, but here are the basic rules:

You are eligible for SB 261 if:

1. You were under the age of 23 at the time you committed the crime,
2. You were sentenced to life ("L") or given a determinate sentence ("no L")
3. You are not disqualified for one of the reasons below. You are NOT eligible for SB 261 if:
  1. You were sentenced under the "three-strikes" law based on two or more prior serious or violent felonies, or you were sentenced to a "one strike" life sentence for certain sex offenses. PC 1170.12; 667(b)-(i); 667.61.
  2. You were sentenced to Life Without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP).
  3. You were convicted of a new crime that happened at age 23 or over and you were given a life sentence for that conviction. PC 3051(h).
  4. You were convicted of a new crime that happened at age 23 or older, and that had "malice aforethought" as a necessary element. These crimes include: first degree murder (PC 187), second degree murder (PC 187), attempted murder (PC 664/187), conspiracy to commit murder (PC 182/187), solicitation to commit murder (PC 653f(b)); assault by a person serving a life sentence that is with a deadly weapon or that is likely to produce great bodily injury (PC 4500).

When does the new law go into effect?

SB 261 and its companion bill, SB 519, will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2016. But that does not mean you will get a hearing in Jan. – there are over 10,000 people eligible for SB 261 and we do not know how the Board of Parole Hearings ("the Board") will schedule and prioritize hearings. The law includes a deadline for when the Board must complete hearings for everyone who has served enough time to get a youth offender parole hearing. The deadline for people with a life sentence ("lifers") is January 1, 2018. The deadline for people with a determinate sentence ("no L") is Dec. 31, 2021.

The law also requires that the Board do a Consultation with each person six years before the hearing. The Consultation is when a member of the Board sits down with you and goes over what you need to do to get ready for your parole hearing. The deadline for completing all the Consultations is Jan. 1, 2018.



# Katya McCulloch's Dedication to San Quentin Artwork

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

For the last 11 years, Katya McCulloch has been teaching block printing at San Quentin State Prison. Over the years, she has figured out what works in a prison setting and what doesn't when it comes to making prints.

On most Friday mornings, McCulloch can be found in the San Quentin art studio teaching linoleum block cutting techniques, commonly referred to as lino-cuts. "We've tried different types of printing, but because of equipment and security concerns, lino-cuts are the most practical," she says.

Before coming to teach at San Quentin, McCulloch worked in alternative education. She and a fellow artist helped start the Teamworks Art Mentoring Program in Marin County, which provides art classes for at-risk youth, who do not typically have access to art education.

"Growing up I went to a high school that didn't have any art programs. When I found print making at the college level, I found my language," says McCulloch.

Her path to higher education was not a straight one. McCulloch attended five different colleges before graduating from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in German literature and art practice. "It took me 11 years to complete my degree, and I give thanks to the community college system for allowing a mother with kids to re-enter the higher education system."

After graduating, McCulloch lived for four years in Berlin, Germany, where she attended the Berlin Free University, which specializes in liberal arts. "The legacy of the German Expressionist made a huge impact on me," says McCulloch, adding that she was especially affected by the artwork of the

painter Paul Klee.

She says having an internationally diverse background and living in an affluent county like Marin made her want to give back. "I have a lot of understanding in how narrow the definition of fitting is and how hard it is to find an outlet for your creative side."

McCulloch says she considers herself lucky that she found art. "If creativity doesn't find an outlet, it can become self-destructive."

As for working inside San Quentin, McCulloch says she enjoys it very much. "It's never boring. I like working with other artists on collaborative projects because I enjoy watching how ideas grow with all the other participants' input," she says. San Quentin artists have their own vision and possess high skill sets, she added. "It's interesting and challenging working with these adult artists."

In addition to making prints, McCulloch is a sculptor and painter — although she admits she hasn't painted in some time. Her artwork was recently exhibited at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, where work by artists from San Quentin was also displayed. "I felt proud to have my work shown there; it felt like an accomplishment," she says.

McCulloch's work can be seen locally in an exhibit at the Westamerica Bank, Red Hill Branch, in San Anselmo. Her work with the San Quentin artists can be seen in the traveling exhibit "Absence and Presence," which features artwork inspired by bombings in Baghdad, Iraq.

The show has already been exhibited in San Francisco, Boston and London and will eventually show at the National Library in Baghdad before it is permanently displayed at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. To find out more about this show, readers can search "al-Mutanabbi Street starts here."

McCulloch came to San Quentin when the art program was looking to diversify its classes. Since arriving, her

work has been quite successful, gaining her respect from the men she has taught. "Ultimately, I think being exposed to art

makes us more rounded human beings. Art is a universal human need and not just an elitist profession," she commented.

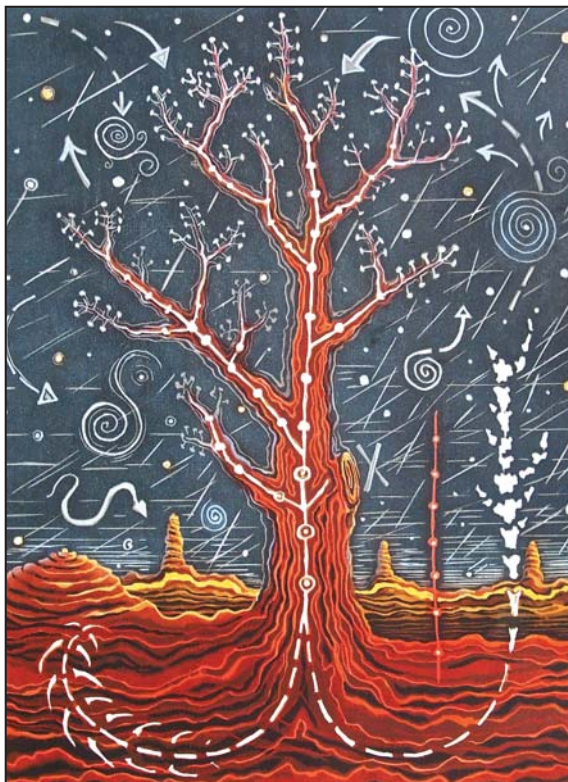


Edge of Wilderness



Photo by L. S. Robinson

Christopher Christensen, Andrew Vance, Rolf Kissman, Adam Barbosa and Katya McCulloch



Tanami Sky



Golden Book of Art



# Judge Henderson's Cheering Welcome to SQ

*Continued from Page 1*

stood in the back of the chapel watching, seemingly more out of curiosity than anything else.

As one of the three judges that preside over California prison health care, Henderson is known for his rulings which resulted in an order for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to reduce its prison population.

"I'm not going to be on the bench forever," Henderson told the audience.

Initially, inmates and guests assembled in the Protestant Chapel to watch *The Thelton Henderson Story*, a film documentary that chronicles the judge's life, produced by Abby Ginzberg in 2005.

"Thank you for your support of Judge Henderson," said Ginzberg as her film crew recorded the event. She plans to change the ending of the film to reflect work that Henderson has done since its completion 10 years ago.

Henderson was forthright with inmates as he spoke about tackling prison issues during his tenure on the bench.

In 1993, Henderson presided over a trial in which inmates identified as gang members at Pelican Bay State Prison were housed in the security housing unit (SHU) for indeterminate periods of time.

"When I got the Pelican Bay case I had five issues; one was solitary confinement," said Henderson. "I think the policy will change."

"Henderson's decision (on solitary confinement) outlined a blueprint for reform," the film narration said.

According to the *Associated Press*, the CDCR settled the Ashker v. Brown lawsuit in September, agreeing to stop housing validated gang members in SHUs for indeterminate lengths of time.

Henderson said the gang validation policy is coming under "strict scrutiny" as prisons consider it.

"Solitary was a tough case," said Ginzberg. "We're moving as a society and keeping pressure on the decision makers; shout out to Michelle Alexander for her work" writing *The New Jim Crow*.

Henderson said when he attended law school in 1962 students were taught three purposes of prison; they were punishment, deterrence and rehabilitation. He said rehabilitation has gone away.

In the film Henderson said, "Those who have transgressed the law are still human beings."

Henderson said there were 30,000 inmates in California prisons when he became a judge, reaching a peak of 180,000 decades later due to the tough-on-crime movement that got out of hand.

"I'm determined to see an improvement in the prison system," Henderson said in the film.

Referring to Realignment (AB 109), Henderson said the result is a decline in the state prison population. "The offshoot of that is the counties are

overcrowding," he said.

According to Henderson, Republicans and Democrats have agreed that long prison terms do not help. He said they realize it costs too much to house inmates.

"I've been pushing Governor Brown to push new legislation to help reduce the population," said Henderson. "It serves no one to send people to prison for long periods of time."

The inmate turnout did not reflect the number of those who signed up to attend the event. More than 250 inmates were approved to attend Henderson's visit and the film screening.

"People sign up, but people don't come," said Lt. Samuel Robinson, SQ Public Information Officer. "For those who didn't, I'm sure it's their loss. "I think it (attendance) was still paltry."

"I'm very glad to have seen your path of life," said inmate James Metters. "Your walk has inspired me as it has all of us. You're an example to follow."

Inmates serving lifer terms beyond the schedule in their sentencing matrix raised their concerns about the legality of the matter.

"There's nothing the legal system can do about it," said Henderson. "It's a political matter."

Henderson referred to the late-1980s case of Willie Horton. He said no politician wants to shoulder the responsibility of releasing a lifer on parole, who commits a heinous crime.

Inmate Forrest Jones asked Henderson about his opinion on California's Three-Strikes law.

Henderson said to warehouse someone for the period of time under three-strikes does no good for the prisoner or for society.

"It's not rational. It's too punitive," said Henderson. "We are one of the few countries that doesn't treat its prisoners as if they are citizens. I believe further changes need to be made."

The film chronicled Henderson's life from his childhood days living in the Los Angeles area of Watts to his days at the University of California, Berkeley, and on to its School of Law at Boalt Hall.

In 1962, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recruit-

ed Henderson to work as a civil rights attorney. He worked in the deep South documenting violations of civil rights laws.

Older Black inmates viewed the film in silence as they watched footage of police dogs attacking Blacks protesting for their civil rights in the South.

"In the face of brutality Thelton Henderson still believes very much in the law," the film's narration says. "He was a little bit of all worlds that were colliding."

In 1968, Henderson questioned Stanford University's administration as to why in its history it had not graduated any Blacks from its law school. The university responded by hiring Henderson to recruit Blacks to attend Stanford Law School. Within six years 20 percent of Stanford's students were minorities.

"Thelton still has the problem of being a Black man in power in America," the film narration says.

In the 1990s Californians voted on Proposition 209 which banned affirmative action in California. Henderson blocked the proposition which led to accusations that he silenced voters. A three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit reversed Henderson's decision, and the U.S. Supreme Court later refused to hear the case, leaving the proposition intact.

According to the film, Henderson became a target of impeachment from the bench because of his rulings.

Henderson said he is going to retire and has already hired his last clerks. He said a replacement judge will get randomly assigned by a computer, and 14 of the 20 active district court judges in his court are bright judges appointed by President Barack Obama.

"I didn't know what to expect," said attendee Kyla Rowe, a law clerk for Henderson who graduated from Hastings College of the Law in May. "It was eye-opening."

"One of the most touching moments was when you all applauded the judge," said Michelle Lamy, another one of Henderson's law clerks and a June graduate of Stanford Law School. "It was overwhelming."

**-James R. Abernathy Jr. and Nyerere Jase contributed to this story**

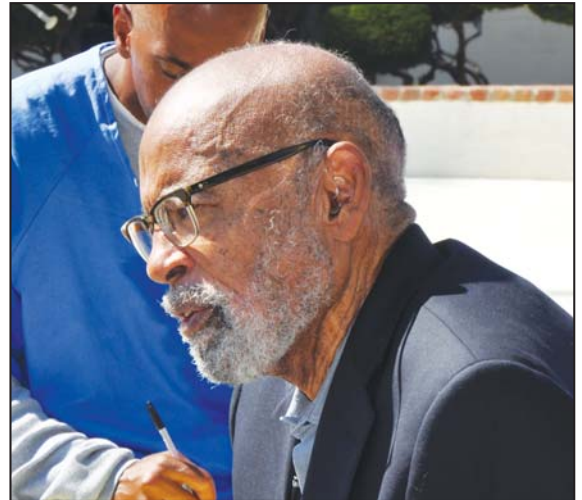


Photo by Eddie Herena

Judge Thelton Henderson talks to prisoners outside in the Central Plaza

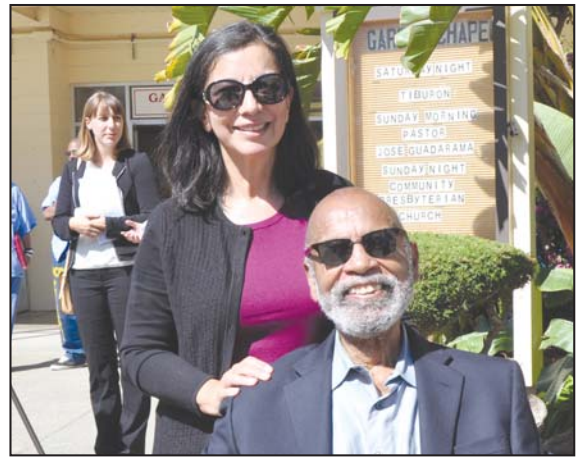


Photo by Eddie Herena

Dr. Maria Luisa Alaniz with her husband Judge Thelton Henderson



Photo by Eddie Herena

Pastor Mardi Jackson shares a laugh with Judge Henderson as Curtis Roberts helps him outside



Photo by Eddie Herena

Curtis Roberts, Judge Henderson and John Windham enjoying each others company

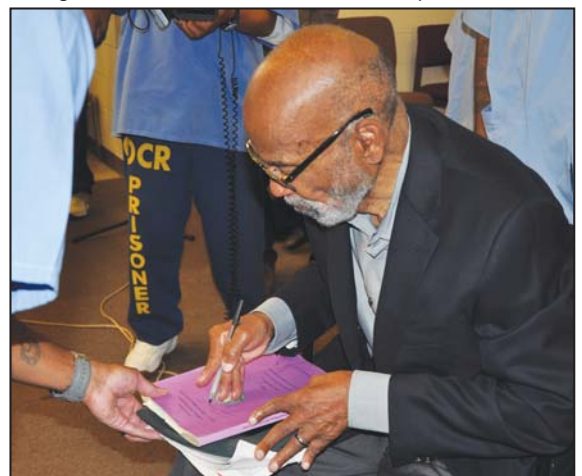


Photo by Eddie Herena

Judge Henderson signs a Title 15 for a prisoner



# Teachers Tackle the School-to-Prison Pipeline

*Continued from Page 1*

labeled based on their affiliations. “We have this idea that public safety is investing in law enforcement.”

Kelli Riggs works for the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), where she teaches fifth grade at Bret Harte Elementary School in the city’s Bay View district. She said schools that adopt zero tolerance policies condition some teachers to have biases against some students.

“I can’t remember a time when I went to school when a teacher was for me,” said inmate Shaded Wallace-Stepter. He said now that he is older he recognizes the value of education and how much teachers are on the front line.

Omar Hunter is a teacher, originally from Detroit, Michigan. He has worked for OUSD and now works in the Hayward Unified School District. He said school administrators need to understand the ethnic and racial makeup and the environment schools are in.

“I believe the school-to-prison pipeline begins with class and race oppression,” said Hunter. He said issues are escalated because of demographic differences, and schools need to keep the law out of it.

For some teachers, walking onto the grounds of San Quentin seemed all too familiar.

“Walking up to the physical building looks like a lot of schools,” said Keith Brown, who teaches sixth and eighth grade in the OUSD. “Walking on the (prison) yard was like walking through a high school at lunchtime.”

***“I’ve never sent a kid to detention because I see behavior as more of a symptom”***

According to Brown, zero tolerance policies for kids who break rules such as dress code and talking back to teachers are a basis for students to get labeled. The majority of these students are Black and Brown.

Inmate Borey Ai said his family arrived in the U.S. from Cambodia. “I found myself going to school and not connecting to other kids because of the language barrier,” he said. “The way I coped with things was to join a gang.”

Brown said this year he is teaching students who are new to the U.S., and he can now relate to Borey’s story. “I’m definitely going to share your story with my colleagues,” he said.

Inmate Rodolfo Medina-Barragan, 18, listened to the older inmates’ stories about their school disciplinary problems and delinquency that eventually led them to prison serving life sentences in California’s dangerous Level Four, maximum-security prisons.

Medina-Barragan said the California Department of Cor-



Photo by Sam Hearn

Prisoners and teachers discussing solutions to stop the School-to-Prison pipeline



Photo by Sam Hearn

Top Row: Leron Barton, Trevor McNeil, Keith Brown, Darell Ross, Bottom Row: Karin Drucker, Deborah Mendoza, Kelli Riggs, Michell McKnight, Omar Hunter, Susanna Kershtholdt-Molloy and Samuel Franklin



Photo by Sam Hearn

Darell Ross explains to Gary Roberson how his school operates

rections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Youth Offender Program (YOP) helped him out by not sending him to a Level Three or Level Four prison.

“I’m grateful that I’m here (San Quentin) so I don’t have to go through that,” said Medina-Barragan.

“I’ve never sent a kid to detention because I see behavior as more of a symptom,” said Trevor McNeil, who teaches seventh grade English. He said it makes sense that kids are defiant when they are hungry or abused.

Darell Ross, an assistant principal in Oakland, said when he started teaching he was given guidelines, rules and directives on how to deal with students.

“Looking back, I would start out with the end in mind,” Ross said.

Ross said different choices can be made by talking to inmates. He said educators need to learn from people who have been through certain experiences, and education administrators need to incorporate that in college training programs.

Toward the end of the forum, *San Quentin News’* Editor-in-Chief, Arnulfo T. Garcia asked the inmates to share the moment in which they knew it was time to change their lives for the better.

“I had an epiphany moment when I saw a Death Row inmate escorted in shackles,” said inmate Philip Melendez. “That could have been me.”

For other inmates, change came with time.

“Hearing my mother cry when I got sentenced crushed me, but it didn’t change me,” said David Monroe. “Maturity made me see life differently.” He said San Quentin Utilizing Inmate Resources Experiences and Studies (SQUIRES) allowed him to see kids who reflect exactly who he was at their age.

Teachers were asked what their biggest takeaways would be from participating in the forum and hearing directly from those who fell into the school-to-prison pipeline trap.

Susanna Kershtholdt-Molloy said she did not like how kids are systematically targeted.

“My take-away is to reach out to families,” said Kershtholdt-Molloy. “I don’t blame the kids for what they bring to the table.”

Ross said, on behalf of educators who are doing their best, he wanted to apologize for anything they’ve done that led inmates to where they are today. He apologized for their failures.

“This instilled more awareness in what it takes to raise a child,” said Ross. “Instead, we look for ways to isolate and separate. We have all that we need to solve problems, but we have to come together.”

This initial forum will lead to future San Quentin forums with educators in the community who are interested in reaching out to at-risk students.

—Kevin Sawyer, James R. Abernathy Jr.





Photo by P. Jo

# Arts & Entertainment

## Johnston Canyon

### Sudoku Corner

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

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

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

### Complete This Puzzle and Win a Prize!

Question: The more you take from me, the bigger I will become. What am I?

The Answer to Last Months Trivia: The Farmer carries the chicken across the river and comes back. He grabs the grain and carries that across then takes the chicken back. He drops the chicken off and grabs the fox and carries the fox across the river. He then goes back and gets the chicken and carries the chicken across the river.

The winner to last Month's puzzle is Robert Bacon.

Congratulations to all the other participants who also got last month's puzzle correct. Andy Halperin, Craig Gerstner, Edward Wycoff, Norman Hirscher, E. Vick and Leroy Lucus.

Congratulations to Gavin Backues for his creative response: Let the chicken eat the feed, and let the fox eat the chicken and then carry the fox across the river.

#### 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

**S**adly, West Virginia is considered to hold the distinction of being the deadliest state in America. In 2009 there were 11.7 deaths per 1,000 people.

**C**ongested enough, Los Angeles is the most populated city in the state with 9,880,000 residents, according to the 2009 United States Census.

**H**orses can only breathe through their noses.

**I**n 1801, an ex-slave named Toussaint L'Ouverture led close to 500,000 Haitian slaves against Haiti's French colonialists. Their victory was the first successful slave revolt which helped establish Haiti as the first Black republic.

**S**pellings can be troublesome at times, similar to the way "British" is misspelled in the last paragraph in the Declaration of Independence.

**M**assachusetts and Maine, which was part of Massachusetts until 1820, celebrated the third Monday in April as a legal holiday called Patriot's Day.



# After the Conversation, What's Next?

By Watani Stiner  
Contributing Writer

Though it seems a lot longer, it's only been nine months since I was released from San Quentin State Prison. Just a few months since I gathered my belongings, said my good-byes and walked eagerly but patiently to be processed from one world into another. I took my final breath of imprisoned air and allowed my ears to surrender the sounds of jangling keys and clanging doors. Twenty-six years of captivity and another 20 spent as an escaped fugitive in exile. I pondered my new reality on the other side of these concrete walls.

I am moving cautiously through a process of re-learning. Unquestionably, after 46 years, this country has changed a lot: people, places and a wide variety of "things." I'm dazzled by magical cell phone apps and thrilled by the readily available flow of information that can be retrieved from my laptop.

While on the one hand, with the assistance of GPS navigation, it's relatively impossible to get lost out here anymore, it's also creepy how easily the government can not only track and find you but can know everything about you. And people don't even seem to mind. Yet, in spite of all these technological advancements and wonderments, there remains a social reality that seems to have become more pernicious and prevalent—a cruel reality of police brutality, poverty, mass incarceration and gross inequality, yoked with a powerful apathy working as a buffer from the human suffering caused by these conditions.

I was immediately shocked by the saturation of homelessness on the streets of this coun-

try. Both young and old roam the streets looking for safety, shelter and a willing handout. I witness constant streams of women, young and old, pushing stuffed carts while hungry and dispirited-looking children try to keep up. I see their hungry faces revealing their thoughts: this is my reality...this is how life is... this is normal.

Now I'm quite aware that this is not the total reality of life on this side of the wall. But it is the one I choose to talk about, one I cannot ignore. The last time I walked the streets of this country as a free man was January 1969. Similar to today, it was a time of great social unrest in this country. In 1969, the year I was sentenced, the prison population in the state of California was less than 25,000. The prison population today has skyrocketed to well over 100,000. And the number of young prisoners is astonishing!

Even though there are now Black faces in high places, including in the White House, and there are more women in the workforce than ever before, poverty, racism and sexism are still very much alive and well. This is the United States of America, the richest and most powerful country in the world. Yet for many of its marginalized citizens, opportunities parallel those in far less developed countries, and those limited opportunities often line the path to incarceration.

Something is not only outrageously wrong with this picture, it has become the acceptable norm among so many of its people: Police abuse, abject

poverty and mass incarceration. This country spends six times as much money on incarceration than it does on education. How is it tolerated by so many people that such extreme disparity, not marginalized or hidden but in plain and distasteful sight, can exist?

**"It is this knowledge and depth that are required in order to move the conversation beyond shallowness"**

I see and long for a genuine racial reconciliation and a genuine accounting for the shockingly glaring disparity in quality of life—which I don't believe is really comprehended either by the privileged or by the disenfranchised. I long for this reconciliation not just in words, or from some moralistic impulse propelled by a vague notion of "nonviolence," which is preached mainly to the rage of victims of oppression. I long for a reconciliation forged out of a deeper understanding of the historical threads, a real reckoning with the intentional, violent and state-sanctioned oppression that created the economic and social conditions that we all are confronted with today.

Racism—as an ideology and

institutional arrangement, and the desire, the rage, the concerns and the guilt engendered by those on both sides of the issue—is nothing new. And always, there is someone, somewhere who stands up and calls out passionately for racial reconciliation and racial justice. There is often someone pleading with America to engage in "a conversation about race." This conversation is necessary. It is crucial. All too frequently, however, the conversation doesn't go very far. I believe this is because in order to really have that conversation, there needs to be a far broader and deeper acknowledgement of the historical devastation that has been thrust upon the once enslaved Africans of this nation.

I'm not only referring to slavery—that human beings were actually kidnapped and brought here against their will—but also a more cohesive understanding about what has been done to these human beings over the last 400 years since we got here. I don't mean assenting to some disconnected facts about a lynching or a drinking fountain, but grasping that there has been an organized, powerful, pervasive, relentless attack on a certain group of people, perpetrated by their own government and its laws and carried out by its citizens in countless insidious ways.

This is critical to understanding why there is such a wide gap in every area of this society. It speaks to why Africans in America are relegated to certain quarters/sections, into areas of inferior housing and education.

Why Katrina was not just a hurricane (if you're Black), and why so many of us are consumed by the criminal justice system. It also speaks to the reason why a majority of White children are taught and learn in secure environments free of poverty, stray bullets and police brutality.

Learning and deeply understanding the history, learning the depths and the nuance of the pain, and suffering, and difference... It is this knowledge and depth that are required in order to move the conversation beyond shallowness, because it is necessary for us to move below the surface in order to dismantle the structures weighing upon, shaping, and forming the core of our lives and our interactions.

As long as we stay at the surface level, it is easy to miss or dismiss the enormous magnitude of what has happened around racism in this country, and trying to have a conversation without understanding the magnitude goes nowhere. A conversation to what end? What good is there in our having a conversation if all we are seeking to achieve is a little more pleasant and polite feeling between the races? Is it just about how to live congenially and tolerantly in our inequality? Does the conversation not include action toward structural changes? Does it not hint of redistribution or relinquishing of any resources and privileges? If it's business as usual, what's the purpose? After intense exchange of racial experiences, after listening to each other's racial stories... after we smile and laugh and become friendlier toward each other, what's next? The same racist institutions are still intact. And we resume our separate lives and wait for the next news flash that proves Black lives do not matter.

## Transgenders Fighting to Be Socially Accepted in Prison and After Incarceration

By Juan Moreno Haines  
Managing Editor

When Kristin Schreier Lyseggen moved from her native Norway to Berkeley, she saw it as an opportunity to understand the lives of people struggling to survive on the fringes of society.

"All I knew was that I needed to find people who were not easily accepted in mainstream society," she writes in the introduction of her book *The Women of San Quentin: Soul Murder of Transgender Women in Male Prisons*.

*The Women of San Quentin* chronicles interviews with nine formerly incarcerated transgender women. The interviewees recounted physical and psychological abuse while also showing humanity, humor and self-respect.

The interviews with these formerly incarcerated women ultimately leads Lyseggen to ask in *The Women of San Quentin*, "How can any sane, democratic society justify keeping transgender women in maximum security prisons for men?"

### BOOK REVIEW



Author Kristin Schreier Lyseggen

In order for transgender inmates in California prisons to receive necessary medical care and mental health treatment, nine of the state's 34 prisons have been designated to house male-to-female transgender inmates and two to house female-to-male transgender inmates.

Prisoners with treatment situations are reviewed on a "case-by-case," basis California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) spokesman Jeffrey Callison said in an email interview with *Lavender Magazine*.

CDCR spokeswoman Terry

Thornton added, "If a transgender inmate wants female items, and she's in a male institution, she'll have access to those items."

Describing herself in an interview with *Lavender* magazine as "white, privileged and straight," Lyseggen contended that people like her need to "start getting involved and not treat these people as second-and third-class citizens." <http://www.lavendermagazine.com/mylavender/thewomenof-sanquentincomesamidhistoric-changes/>

Lyseggen's underlying point: people just want to live their lives.

Transgender women began arriving at San Quentin a couple of years ago. When they got here, I witnessed some of the same prejudices against them highlighted in *The Women of San Quentin*. On the Lower Yard and in personal conversations, I heard all kinds of negative comments about these women regarding their life choices. Ultimately, I agree with Lyseggen's premise that people

just want to live their lives, because I, too, am a second- and third-class citizen based on my status as a prisoner.

Reading about the childhood of Janetta Johnson, one of the transgender women profiled in Lyseggen's book, forced me to understand how she did her time in a federal prison in Oregon.

She couldn't get good-time credits if she went to the hole, so she stayed on the mainline and dealt with the BS.

"Abuse from childhood has followed her through life like a ghost," Lyseggen writes in *The Women of San Quentin*.

Johnson is quoted as saying, "The emotional pains, scars, lumps, bumps and bruises outweighed anything that happened to me physically."

The book ends with both a question and argument: "What do we owe a 'criminal'? To which I would answer that all of us suffer when someone's humanity is denied in the way experienced by so many of our people who end up in US prisons."

# Ice Extiende Carceles Para Mujeres Inmigrantes

El numero promedio de inmigrantes ha descendido 23% del promedio diario del año pasado

Por Salvador Solorio  
Escritor del Gremio  
Periodístico

Oficiales de inmigración han anunciado planes para extender facilidades de detención para mujeres en el Sur de California.

La Inmigración y la Aduana anunciaron que 640 camas se

añadirán a la Institución de detención de Adelanto en el desierto noroeste de Los Angeles. Dirigida por la compañía GEO, con fines de lucro, se calcula que esta institución tendrá 1,940 camas.

Existe la necesidad de un espacio para colocar camas para mujeres con antecedentes penal-

es, inmigrantes con necesidades médicas, personas buscando asilo y otros detenidos, La Prensa Asociada informo el 7 de Julio. David Marin, director del ICE, dijo que la acción ayudara a consolidar el espacio de la detención porque las camas son costosas y difícil de encontrar en San Francisco.

El plan de expansión en Adelanto se efectuara cuando el número de inmigrantes detenidos haya disminuido en la escala nacional. El numero promedio de inmigrantes ha descendido 23% del promedio diario del año pasado.

Los abogados de la inmigración han puesto en duda la calidad del cuidado medico en la facilidad de Adelanto, la cual fue abierta en 2013, y también cuestionan de la necesidad cuando dos facilidades del condado solo están cerca del 70%

ocupadas.

ICE anuncio sus planes para trasladar a detenidos transexuales de Santa Ana a Adelanto, y ubicar a reos transexuales de acuerdo al género con el cual se identifican.

ICE pagara \$111 en albergar a un detenido en Adelanto, comparado con \$118 en la facilidad de Orange County y \$142 en centros en el área de San Diego. El promedio nacional es \$122 por día, AP informo.

-Traducción  
Miguel Quezada

## Presos a Traves de los Estados Unidos Envejeciendo

Por Lee Jaspar  
Escritor del Gremio  
Periodístico

Presos están envejeciendo a través de todos los Estados Unidos, de acuerdo a Jacob Gershman en su bloque de leyes *Wall Street Journal*.

"Prisioneros de 50 años de edad y mayores representa la población que aumenta mas rápido en las prisiones federales y estatales," escribió Gershman.

Presos avanzados en edad parecen estar relacionados con la población que envejece en general.

Basado en descubrimientos obtenidos en parte por el departamento de censo de los Estados Unidos, se estima que tan solo los presos entre las

edades de 50 y 64 años son responsables por la mitad del aumento en la población anciana, escribió Gershman.

El inspector General del Departamento de Justicia descubrió recientemente que el encarcelamiento de presos de 50 años y mayores de 50 años cuesta 8 por ciento más en relación con los presos jóvenes, debido principalmente a la necesidad de cuidado médico.

Investigadores descubren que las consecuencias del aumento de presos que están envejeciendo son inevitables.

"Los diseñadores de las pólizas deben tomar en consideración como balancear el interés publico en cuanto a seguridad con su costo social y económico... La primera y mejor solución a largo plazo es reducir el gasto

general de los presos y los costos de asistencia médica," de acuerdo a los investigadores citados por Gershman.

Parece haber varias opiniones para explicar el aumento en la población de presos que están envejeciendo.

Algunos mencionan que la expansión de bebes puede ser responsable por la mitad, mientras que otras personas dicen que la tendencia esta vinculada a los altos índices del uso de drogas previo por parte de los reos que están envejeciendo.

Otras personas atribuyen el crecimiento de los presos ancianos a las largas sentencias ocasionadas por leyes más severas y pólizas adoptadas empujando en el año de 1980.

-Traducción  
Tare Beltranchuc

## Vast Majority of Elected U.S. Prosecutors Are White Males

Sixty percent of the states do not have a single elected black prosecutor

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

White men make up the majority of prosecutors in the United States, according to a study funded and published by the Women Donors Network.

The study found that 95 percent of the prosecutors elected in the U.S. are White; 79 percent of whom are White men. It also revealed that more than 60 percent of the country's 50 states do not have a single elected Black prosecutor.

"Of the 2,437 elected prosecutors serving around the country, which includes officials at the state and local levels, just 61 are Black," *The Slate Group* reported.

*Slate* said recent media focus has been between politicians, police targeting minorities, "and laws that impose harsh mandatory sentences on non-violent drug offenders."

Power in the American justice system rests with prosecutors; the result is "systemic bias," *Slate* stated.

"Americans are taking a new look at the relationship between race, gender and criminal justice — in the failures to indict police officers from Ferguson to Staten Island, the rogue prosecutions of women who terminated their pregnancies from

Indiana to Idaho, and in the epidemic of mass incarceration," said Donna Hall, president and CEO of the Women Donors Network.

A similar perspective was presented by *The New York Times* in July: "Prosecutors decide in most criminal cases whether to bring charges. And, because so many criminal cases end in plea bargains, they (prosecutors) have a direct hand in deciding how long defendants spend behind bars."

*Slate* noted: "The American criminal justice system is under intense scrutiny for its role in crippling Black communities through mass incarceration."

The women's network study concluded many prosecutors are elected in "down-ballot" races held in off-year elections, where there is a low voter turnout.

A recent study revealed that 85 percent of all incumbent prosecutors run for office unopposed, according to Ronald Wright, a professor at Wake Forest University School of Law.

"What this shows us is that, in the context of a growing crisis that we all recognize in criminal justice in this country, we have a system where incredible power and discretion is concentrated in the hands of

one demographic group," said Brenda Choresi Carter of the women's network who led the study.

According to Justice for All data, of 57 counties counted in California (which has 58 counties) and the State Attorney General's Office, 49 of the elected district attorneys in California are defined as White. The remaining eight are defined as Asian-American or Pacific Islander, Black or African-American, Hispanic or Latino, multiracial, and "two or more races."

"I think most people know that we've had a significant problem with lack of diversity in decision-making roles in the criminal justice system for a long time," said Bryan A. Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of the book *Just Mercy*.

Federal prosecutors, who are appointed to office, were not included in the study.

The Women Donors Network is a philanthropic group of about 200 women. One of its focuses is on the race and gender of elected officials. The data, according to *The New York Times*, was compiled and analyzed by the Center for Technology and Civic Life, a nonpartisan group specializing in the aggregate of civic data sets.

## Solitary Confinement Grows in United States

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Use of segregated housing in U.S. prisons and jails has risen significantly in recent years, even as evidence grows that the practice harms inmates.

The number of federal inmates in segregated housing, commonly termed solitary confinement, grew 17 percent between 2008 and 2013, according to data from the U.S. Government Accountability Office cited in a new report by the Vera Institute of Justice. That was nearly triple the 6 percent rise in the overall federal prison population during the same period.

### REPORT

While some prison officials and policy makers defend the practice, the report, *Solitary Confinement: Common Misconceptions and Emerging Safe Alternatives*, argues that in Europe, solitary confinement is regarded as torture and that more humane policies would better serve inmates. The report seeks to correct what it calls common misconceptions about solitary confinement, including that it deters violence and disruptive behavior among the general inmate population, that it protects at-risk inmates, and that while conditions may be stark, they are not inhumane.

Over the past 150 years, several reports have found, "subjecting an individual to more than 10 days of involuntary segregation results in a distinct set of emotional, cognitive, social and physical pathologies."

### SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

When an inmate is placed in solitary confinement, he or she is confined to a cell (either alone or with a cellmate) for 22 to 24 hours a day with limited contact with the natural world. The experience disrupts social interaction, removes "the sights and sounds of life," and there are severe restrictions on "eating, showering or recreating."

Prison officials say solitary confinement is used only as a last resort, the harmful effects are overstated and not well un-

derstood, and that alternatives are expensive. But in practice, solitary confinement instead remains a management tool for prison and jail officials due to misunderstandings on when and how to use it, the report states.

"Vera's experience in the field has shown that disruptive behavior—such as talking back, being out of place, failure to obey an order, failing to report to work or school or refusing to change housing units or cells—frequently lands incarcerated people in disciplinary segregation."

Officials additionally say, solitary confinement is needed to protect some inmates, such as former law enforcement officers and public officials; those with mental illness, developmental or intellectual disabilities; and those vulnerable because of their sexuality, or in danger of retaliation from other prisoners because of sex offenses against children. However, under the pretense of protection, these vulnerable inmates are placed in the same conditions and restriction reserved for inmates who commit the most violent and dangerous acts.

### FEDERAL PRISON

In the federal prison system, and at least 19 states, officials are permitted to hold people in segregated housing indefinitely, Vera reports.

In September, the California changed its Security Housing Unit (SHU) lock-up procedures, so that no inmate could be held in there indefinitely.

Prison reformers expect other states to follow the California's reforms as to how inmates are assigned to SHUs and how long they stay there, *UPI* reports.

More than 2,000 prisoners in California SHUs are expected to be affected by the change.

Those subjected to solitary confinement are at times permanently harmed by it, even after being released from prison, according to Vera's report. "Between 1987 and 2007, California released an estimated 900 incarcerated people each year directly to the community from its secure housing units; in 2013, Texas released more than 1,200 incarcerated people in this way."



# Vocational Trades Give Prisoners Hope for Success After Release

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Inmates doing time at San Quentin State Prison take good advantage of one prison system idea that's designed to ensure they leave prison with a certified marketable trade that pays them a livable wage.

Vocational plumbing is one of 18 trades taught in Career Technical Education. Currently, 27 inmates are enrolled in the class.

To complete the four levels of instruction, the self-paced

program takes students between 15 and 24 months to complete.

"All these guys are getting ready to work," said instructor Zack Pryor. "They are being taught skills so that they could leave prison as apprentices or to run their own business."

Inmates also learn resume writing and how to fill out job applications, Pryor said.

Inmate Gregory Bibbs, 49, who arrived in San Quentin in 2011, began the class four months ago. "I'm already a

certified welder," Bibbs said. "I wanted to put another trade under my belt." Bibbs is also enrolled in the Lassen College correspondence program.

"I wanted to take a trade that I could use upon release," said Fanon Figgers, 45.

Figgers is a life-term inmate who participates in several programs such as the violence prevention programs, No More Tears, and Project LA. Figgers also is in the faith-based programs, Graced Out Ministries and Maliki Dads.

One skill inmates learn in the plumbing class is the need for a good industrial supplier. Sean Luigs, co-owner of Elite Supply Source, talked to the inmates about the distribution of industrial supplies to state prisons.

Since starting the company three years ago with Jon Schultz, Luigs said they are working hard to create a great team. "We believe in the phrase, 'a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.'"

In addition to distributing plumbing supplies, the Rancho Cordova company distributes safety equipment, chemicals and paints, tools and construction materials.



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Vocational instructor Zack Pryor explains how the Solar/Wind Energy Training System function

"My competitive advantage is the personal touch that I put into my company and sales," Luigs said. "I am passionate about what I do. I modeled my company to compete with billion dollar companies."

Several students asked Luigs if Elite Supply Source would hire ex-offenders and whether he supported the Ban-the-Box movement that removes questions about criminal convictions off job application forms.

"I don't even know what that term is," Luigs said. "I don't want to know what it means. I'm all about the families who work for me."

Luigs said that earlier this

year Elite Supply Source interviewed two ex-offenders.

"The biggest thing we look for in an employee is the attitude," Luigs said. "However, the guys we interviewed just weren't as good as the guy we hired. It had nothing to do with the fact they were ex-offenders."

Luigs offered a couple of quotes that he said are important to keeping a positive business attitude: "Well done is better than well said," by Benjamin Franklin. And, after meeting runner Jim Ryun, Luigs said he liked this Ryun quote: "Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going."



ELITE Supply Source Service Team

# Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Judge Clare Maier Join Inmates for National Addiction Recovery Celebration

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

California Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-11th District) and Contra Costa County Judge Clare Maier sat swapping stories with incarcerated men about triumphs over addiction as the live bands Quentin Bleu and One Finger Short played original music in the background. They were inside the prison to attend the National Addiction Recovery celebration.

Addiction Recovery Counseling (ARC) hosted the event. Members of Options Recovery Services, Seeds of Sophia and Support 4 Recovery joined in the celebration, which included food cooked by John "Yahya" Parratt.

"September is Recovery Month," said Rick Baez, who helped start the ARC program. "This is a national event. The goal of today's event is to connect the men on the inside to the outside to remove the shame of recovery."

Outside guests and inmates sat inside a trailer on the Lower Yard while the bands played just outside. Each person in the circle spoke about removing the stigma of addiction—many by sharing their personal stories.

Congressman DeSaulnier talked about how substance abuse and depression affected his life. His father was a judge who lost his job, went bankrupt and committed suicide.

"We have to get out of the culture of shame, judgment and blame and get to acceptance, change and redemption," said DeSaulnier.



Photo by Eddie Herena

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Robin Guillen

Judge Maier was there to support recovery.

"I'm a servant, and this event gives me a chance to serve," said Maier.

She spoke about the ability to wait in a space of angst or anger—or to pause when things go wrong.

"The guys should use the time they were given as encouragement to help turn their lives around," she said.

ARC is a 16-week program that trains inmates to be certified addiction counselors, according to Borey "Peejay" Ai.

Incarcerated ARC member Isiah Daniels told the guest, "I figured I wasn't an addict because he didn't look like me." Once Daniels accepted he had a problem, he was able to ask for help and get it to beat addiction.

"Every step you take is a step in the right direction," added Daniels.

Gregory G. Coates talked about how AA and Indian Ceremony helped him break away from addiction.

Outside guests were inspired and shared their stories.

Kiki Kessler (Seeds of Sophia) said, "I drove with a broken arm and shoulder to get here. She has taught Reentry Action Planning class in H-Unit for 12 years.

"I'm inspired by the changes I see these men have made in their lives. That's what keeps me volunteering," she added.

Geraldine Moore of Support 4 Recovery said, "For recovery to take place, you have to peel back the layers of your life to see why you are self-medicating. Then work through the hurts, hang-ups and habits." She added, "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain."

Kristin Lobos of Support 4 Recovery Youth Advocate said,

"What motivates me is I'm a mother of a recovering teen addict. I think we should treat addiction as a health issue and not a crime. A lot of people profit off our suffering. Know that your family is worthy of help and support. Once we remove the stigma of shame, we can focus on the recovery."

Karen Cordill, a Support 4 Recovery supporter, said, "I think people are very hard and judgmental on the outside because they judge themselves so much, so they judge others." She took a day off from work to attend. It was her first time inside San Quentin.

"It's great to see the recovery," said Jeanie Slater of Axis Unity Health. "You see changes in people's lives. It's like we are giving to each other, and that's the spirit of recovery, the spark to keep on going."

Support 4 Recovery president and co-founder Tom Aswad said, "When I come in and

work with the ARC program, it's probably the best aspect of my recovery. There is no group like the aftercare here on the outside."

Support 4 Recovery operates without a constant source of funding, office space or employees to provide the ARC program with its educational needs.

"What I really like about the program is that the facilitators are us," said Eddie Herena, an ARC graduate. "I can relate."

DeSaulnier spoke in an interview about criminal justice.

"We need to change our justice system. A lot of politics is about scaring people constantly," said DeSaulnier. "It's not evidence-based."

"You can see over the course of time which programs work and which don't," he added. "Maybe we should go upstream and find out why all these kids are falling in the water."

—Marcus Henderson  
contributed to this story



Photo by Eddie Herena

Steve Emrick, Tom Aswad and Judge Clare Maier



# Can Rap Music Promote Positive Change and Growth?

## Yard Talk

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Can mainstream rap music return to its positive roots? The Yard Talk panel debated whether a paradigm shift was possible.

**Demond Lewis:** “The Powers That Be won’t allow you to turn it around. They won’t give the airplay or push to positive music. How can we change something that society and the Powers That Be want? I can say I’m against that music, but I’ll buy their

CD because of a cut I like.”

**John “Yahya” Johnson:** “The media agenda is pushing cultural destruction. How do you deal with that? How do you fend off that when the Top-20 is pushing sex, drugs and murder and we talking about these things happening in the ghetto?”

**Marcus Henderson:** “Once we admit that a spiritual war has been declared on us, then we can understand how to engage overt action against what controls us mentally, spiritually and emotionally.”

**Johnson:** “Change starts when the people get fed up.”

**Lewis:** “Def Jam, Ruthless, Cash Money all owned by non-Blacks. Rap is something we made popular, yet we don’t even own 50-percent. We don’t control it, so how can we change it?”

**Eric Curtis:** “Music is a trend, so it is going to change.”

The Roots’ mainstream success “demonstrates that it is possible for Black men in hip-hop to represent a masculinity that is tasteful, intellectual and transformative,” wrote Crystal Belle in *From Jay-Z to Dead Prez: Examining Representations of Black*

*Masculinity in Mainstream Versus Underground Hip-Hop Music* for the Journal of Black Studies.

“The media agenda is pushing cultural destruction”

“The story of The Roots proves there is room in mainstream hip-hop for alternative notions of Black masculinity. It also proves that what would typically be considered ‘underground’ in nature due to

its subject matter regarding equality and anti-racism, can also have mainstream appeal.”

Antwan “Banks” Williams agrees.

**Williams:** Common and John Legend just came with the *Glory* song that may start a snowball effect of good music. Christian rapper Lecrae is starting to be accepted in the mainstream because of his talent. He is talking about the ‘60s civil rights movement, being a young man dealing with pressures of gang banging and selling his soul. It’s starting to resonate.”

**Richard “Bonaru” Richardson:** “I absolutely believe positive rap can come back. Rap is an outlet – it is a voice of reason. People are always looking for a new trend, a new curve. That’s why rap will never die.”

Richardson believes the music can change direction like he did. He started out writing lyrics about negative themes.

“Once I learned that rapping is a way to get a message out to the public, I started using rapping as a positive voice.”

“Lifestyle when you stuck between a blunt and a bottle/ No family visits, no wife, no father figure or role model/ A follower, too young to do the things that I want to/ Now I’m way too old to do the things that I gotta do,” rapped Richardson.

Williams’ lyrics also leave room for hope.

“I see the world spinning in a downward spiral/ learned how to tell the future by reading the Bible/ my present circumstance makes every heartbeat vital/ as a picture-perfect death can somehow go viral/ outlined in chalk people pose for the camera/ others demonstrate, I can’t breathe with their hands up/ you got two choices, you can lay down or stand up/ or let it take its course if you don’t cut it like cancer,” rapped Williams.

The panel feels that it’s possible to bring positivity back to rap music but only by starting all over.

In the final part of this series, the panel will discuss how to reverse the trend of these negative themes.

—**Trenise Ferreira**  
contributed to this story

# What Can You Be Most Thankful for in Your Life?

*‘I am thankful for the love of my family’*

By **Angelo Falcone**  
Journalism Guild Writer

November is the last of four months in the year with just 30 days. This year, November has five Sundays and five Mondays.

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 1; Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, Veteran’s Day is on Wednesday, Nov. 11, and Thanksgiving Day is on Thursday, Nov. 26. A full moon is expected on Wednesday, Nov. 25.

For members of the Christian community, All Saints Day is Sunday, Nov. 1, All Souls Day is Monday, Nov. 2, Christ the King is Sunday, Nov. 22, and the First Day of Advent is Sunday, Nov. 29.

The World Almanac lists November as National AIDS Awareness Month, National American Indian Heritage Month, National Adoption Month, American Diabetes Month and National Peanut Butter Lovers’ Month.

The two astrological signs in November are Scorpio, the sign of the Scorpion, (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) and Sagittarius, the sign of the Archer, (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). The birthstone for November is topaz.

We may all possess more things — tangible or not — than

## Asked On The Line

we care to remember. Many of the things we possess, we often take for granted. In the spirit of gratefulness, Asked on the Line asked, “Of all the things that we all have in our lives, what are you most thankful for having? Intangible and tangible.”

1. Carlos Flores

My sanity. I am glad I have it. I am thankful for my TV. I love my TV. It is a big part of my life. If I did not have Charlie Rose at night, life would really suck. TV is beautiful.

2. Roger Chavez

I am thankful for the love and support of my family.

I really love my tennis shoes and my radio. My personal clothing makes me feel like I am not so much in prison.

3. Anouthinh Pangthong

Family support is important for me. I am thankful for all of their support.

I am grateful for having my grey cap. I never go anywhere without it.

4. Orlando Harris

I am thankful for my mind. As far as something tangible, I am glad I have my eyeglasses. Without these, life would be rough!

5. Jesus Flores

I am thankful for the love of my kids and I am grateful for having shoes and clothes.

6. Martin Gomez

I am very grateful for having time to study music with my guitar and to go to school.

I am thankful for having clothes and shoes. I have so much I am grateful for having.

“I am grateful for the love of my children and for the things that we are given, bad or good”

7. Miguel Saldana

I am thankful for the love of my family and for access to water. Without love or water, we can die of thirst.

I really like my electronic dictionary to help me interpret English words to Spanish.

8. Jose Vieyra

I am very grateful for my ed-

ucation so that I can help other human beings.

I am thankful for my educational materials to learn.

9. Raymond Bodine

My faith is the most precious thing and I am grateful for my glasses. Without my glasses, I would not be able to see.

10. Jesus Escobar

I am grateful for the love of my children and for the things that we are given, bad or good, like clothes, food and medical attention. Even if we have to go through certain people who do not like us, we get them.

11. Somdeng Thongsy

Relationships are important. It allows me to communicate and connect with others. As far as tangible items, I am grateful for food and clothing. These are necessities, basic needs.

12. Brian Shipp

The love of God. In my life, God is first and foremost. Through him, everything is possible. Without him, nothing is possible. The other thing I took for granted is my freedom.

I am thankful for my Bible. The Bible gives me guidance and wisdom on how to be the best man, person, husband, friend and father than I can be. It is my instruction.

# Minority Report Focuses on Retributive Justice in a Criminal System

SQ Reviews

## MOVIE REVIEW

How does a focus on retribution break a criminal justice system? Mondays at 9 p.m. you can watch FOX’s new show *Minority Report* and find out.

Inspired by the movie of the same name, FOX’s *Minority Report* portrays a society emerging from the shadow of a utopia where murder didn’t exist because the authorities used psychics (precognitives or “pre-cogs”) to predict murders and arrest suspects before the crime is committed. The system fell apart when it was discovered that innocent people could fall victim to misleading predictions.

Retribution-minded citizens likely agree with the members of SQ Reviews that the pre-cog system is unethical, but our ethics diverge with our reasoning.

The general tenor of *Minority Report*, and retributive theories, is that the pre-cog system is unethical because if even one innocent person can wake up with a life sentence, the system is unconscionable. We agree, but it’s a disturbing ethic that misses the elephantine travesty crouched by the couch.

SQ Reviews meets in the lot between the education department and the *San Quentin News* to talk about the elephant.

“You have this system that can predict who will commit a crime before even the would-be perpetrator knows it,” says Emile DeWeaver. “This society is so caught up in retributive justice that they’re imprisoning people for crimes they’ll commit in the

future. Nobody has thought, ‘Hey, we know everyone who might commit a crime. Let’s get them some help BEFORE they ruin their lives.’”

“It’s inhumane,” says Juan Meza. “It says these human lives aren’t worth saving because they don’t have value. This same logic ruled in the 1990s when they started trying more and more children as adults. Politicians pushed this idea that some kids are born bad. The public believed in this bad-seed myth, that these troubled kids couldn’t change, so it was okay to lock them out of society forever.”

Rahsaan Thomas remembers a quote from the only fringe-thinker on the show. “In order for pre-cog to work, the public

has to believe that people can’t change. The whole thing reminds me of mass incarceration. The only way a moral country can make up 5 percent of the world’s population but hold 25 percent of the world’s incarcerated population is by believing that the incarcerated population is somehow inherently bad.”

Jonathan Chiu agrees, but he offers to play Devil’s advocate. “It kind of sounds like you guys are making a moral argument against mass incarceration. Like you’re saying it’s inhumane. What would you say to someone who said your crime was inhumane, so you don’t deserve humanity?”

Meza, Thomas and DeWeaver start talking at the same time. They talk about how difficult it is to answer the question. Nobody wants to sound like they’re minimizing the heinous nature

of their history, but neither are the members of SQ Reviews willing to be defined by who they used to be.

“I don’t accept that I can’t have morals today because I was a horrible person before,” Meza says. “I’ve done decades of work to get right with Christ, and if I see that something is wrong in my society — my society that I’m a part of, that I’m trying to give back to — I’m going to say something.”

“It’s never okay to deny another’s humanity,” says DeWeaver. “It’s not okay for *Minority Report* to reinforce the inhumanity of justice without compassion. It wasn’t okay when I shot my victims, and it’s not okay for our society to ignore the humanity of the people it incarcerates.”

SQ Reviews rates FOX’s *Minority Report* 1 of 5 dinner cookies.



**1. Tucson, Ariz.**—“Felons are our best clients,” said Les Boynton, CEO of the apartment company Second Chance Rentals, to *The Associated Press*. “They value their housing.” The Phoenix-based company is expanding operations to Tucson.

**2. Pittsburgh, PA** — Lewis Fogle, 63, served 34 years in prison after being convicted of raping and killing a 15-year-old girl. In August, new DNA testing brought doubt into Fogle’s conviction, which led a judge to void his conviction, *UPI* reports. County prosecutors agreed to dismiss all charges against him.

**3. Philadelphia, PA** — Jesse Krimes has filed a proposed class action against JPMorgan Chase, accusing the bank of charging excessive fees for debit cards issued to federal inmates when they are released, *Reuters* reports. The lawsuit seeks damages for inmates, nationwide, claiming they were forced to accept JPMorgan debit cards to get their own money.

**4. New Orleans, LA** — In New Orleans the transfer of 1,200 prisoners has started as the new \$150 million jail is finally ready to welcome inmates. The old prison had caused tensions between the sheriff, the city and advocate groups due to the jails dilapidated conditions, reports *The Associated Press*.

**5. Springfield, Mass.** — Mark Schand served 27 years in prison



for murder, assault and robbery he did not commit, *The Associated Press* reports. In 2013, Schand won a new trial that included testimony that he was never at the scene of the crime. The prosecutor dropped the case several weeks later. Schand is now seeking financial compensation from law enforcement officers and prosecutors for suppressing police reports, coerced and unreliable witness statements, improper identification

procedures, and “a general pattern of blatant disregard for the law.”

**6. Menard, Ill.** — Mario Casciaro walked out of prison in September after an appellate court overturned his murder conviction in the 2002 case of a missing northern Illinois teenager. Relatives met Casciaro as he left Menard Correctional Center in southern Illinois, *The (Crystal Lake) Northwest Herald* reports. Prosecutors intend to challenge

the ruling in Illinois Supreme Court.

**7. Augusta, Maine** — Jonathan Carey, 39, has been released from prison after serving more than three years of a four-year sentence for sexual assault. A judge ruled his defense attorneys inadequately represented him during the trial, *The Kennebec Journal* reports. Carey has always maintained his innocence.

**8. Concord, N.H.** — Frank Staples, a Taoist, has filed a re-

ligious rights lawsuit against the state after being placed in secure housing for not shaving his beard, *The Associated Press* reports. State prison rules mandate beards be no longer than a quarter inch for safety reasons. Previously, Staples has been denied parole for being placed in secured housing for violating prison rules.

**9. Oklahoma City, OK** — A pilot program could soon give more recreational time to the nearly 1,200 inmates currently locked in solitary confinement in Oklahoma’s maximum security prison, *The Associated Press* reports. The inmates currently receive only five hours per week of solitary recreation time, but the shift away from solitary housing reflects a growing trend in the country, Oklahoma Department of Corrections Director Robert Patton said.

**10. Huntsville, Texas** — Daniel Lee Lopez was executed mid-August for striking and killing a police lieutenant with an SUV during a chase which happened more than six years ago, *The Associated Press* reports. Lopez, 27, became the 10th Texan inmate put to death in 2015. So far, 19 prisoners have been executed in the U.S. Lopez, who has always asked for a speedy execution, was quoted with having said: “I hope this execution helps my family and also the victim’s family.”

## Texas Slows Its Record Pace Of Death Row Executions

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

The state of Texas is no longer killing Death Row inmates at a record pace. At its peak in 1999, there were 460 men and women sentenced to death. Today, there are only 260 waiting to be executed.

In 2000, the state set an all-time record when 40 Death Row inmates were executed, compared to only 10 in 2014. Only nine inmates have been executed in 2015.

“This year, there have been no new death sentences so far,” according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

This drop in death penalty executions has been supported

across the country. The report attributes the difference to several key factors. One of the major reasons has been the shortage of drugs used in executions.

In 2005, The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that juvenile offenders could not face execution, lessening future sentences as well as sparing 29 offenders on Death Row.

Texas has also revamped its judicial system, giving county prosecutors “the option to pursue life without parole sentences against capital murder defendants,” the report said.

The executive director of the Texas Defender Services, a nonprofit organization of death penalty attorneys, told the *Texas Tribune*, before this

calendar year, “This is the longest we’ve gone in a calendar year in Texas without a new death sentence,” Kathryn Kase added, that zero is significant.

“Life without parole allows us to go back and reverse our mistakes,” Kase said. “We can be really safe in these cases.” Between 2007 and 2014, the state’s number of life without parole sentences jumped from 37 to 96. Currently, 745 prisoners are serving life without parole sentences, nearly three times the number on Death Row.

This year, only three death penalty cases have gone to trial. All have ended with life-without-parole sentences, Kase said.

## Wrongfully Convicted Man Now Sits on Board of Pardons and Pardon

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

A man who spent 21 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit is now sitting on the Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles. DNA testing exonerated him and identified the actual perpetrator.

Kenneth F. Ireland was convicted of the savage rape and murder of Barbara Pelkey, when he was 16 years old. He received a 50-year sentence and spent more than half his life behind bars.

Ireland, who always declared his innocence, lost support of friends and family, and turned

to the Connecticut Innocence Project (CIP). Due to the persistence of the CIP, DNA testing was performed and Ireland was exonerated of all charges, *The New York Times* reported on Dec. 20.

Instead of holding Connecticut’s justice system in contempt, Ireland, now 45, allowed his name to be submitted for active membership on the state’s parole board.

Ireland said, “I’ve been on the inside, and I understand the programs, the issues confronting the inmates.”

Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy nominated Ireland in October 2014, and he was given a temporary position on the

board. Ireland was unanimously confirmed as a full-time board member by a judiciary committee in January.

Ireland has done a lot of work assisting those who have been wrongfully convicted. During this process, Ireland got to know the dean of the University of Connecticut School of Law, Timothy S. Fisher. According to the article, Fisher was instrumental in advocating Ireland’s appointment to the board.

Fisher said, “He has a very clear-eyed understanding of the people in prison.” Fisher went on to mention that because of Ireland’s experience on the inside of prison, he

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has the ability to know when someone is putting on a good performance rather than demonstrating the internalization of self-help and rehabilitation.

At the time this article was reported, Ireland was presiding over a hearing which turned out to be his first test. He worked alongside a retired FBI agent, Ralph A. Murphy. Ireland’s preparation was apparent. The hearings were held to address the revocations of parole for 11 men. None was released to the community.

While parole revocation hearings are not as detailed as a regular court hearing, they can be as intimidating for the inmate. The panel members

have the power to grant an inmate parole or revoke the inmate’s parole and send him/her back to lockup for a number of months to years, and the panel’s decisions are final.

Vivien Blackford, a member of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, was the first person to pitch the idea of Ireland serving on the board. She said, “Having been in prison, he brings so much to the board because he understands the experience, the perspectives, and the reasons that people do what they do.”

In January, the state of Connecticut awarded Ireland \$6 million for his wrongful incarceration.



# The Franchise Wins Intramural League Again

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

The Franchise won the Intramural Basketball League championship for the second year in a row.

"It's the first time a team has won back-to-back championships since I've been here," said Ishmael Freelon, the former Intramural commissioner.

Franchise members were: Harry "ATL" Smith, Anthony Ammons, Marvin Cosby, Donte Smith, Kenneth Dozier, Montrell Vines, Joshua Burton, Demon Lewis and Dave Lee. Franchise was coached by Brad Shells, who also plays for the S.Q. Warriors.

They were on their way to sweep every team in the playoffs, as they did last year, when Squad Up won game three, 81-80.

Squad Up members were: Allan McIntosh, Oris "Pep" Williams, J. "Mailman" Ratchford, Carlyle "Otter" Blake, Rafael Cuevas, Fateem Jackson and Edward Moss. They were coached by Orlando Harris, who also coaches the S.Q. Kings.

The first three games of the finals were decided in the final minutes. That's when the Franchise employs its trap defense.

"We lost every game in the last three minutes," said Williams. "They are a good team. Defense was their calling card. All four games could have gone either way. I'm proud of our team for not giving up."

Game four was no exception. With five minutes left in the game, Squad Up was winning 86-80. Then Lewis nailed a three-pointer. Ammons followed with a floater, making the score 86-85.

Squad Up found itself down 92-96 after Cosby dropped three treys in a row.

Down four points with one minute on the game clock and 10 seconds on the shot clock, Squad decided to foul Ammons to stop the clock. Ammons made one of two from the line.

"We got impatient at the end of the game," said Williams. "The clock was against us no matter what. Fouling Ammons is a good strategy because he's not a strong free-throw shooter."

Cuevas answered with a shot range set shot making the score 97-94, but with time winding down, Squad Up continued to foul to keep seconds on the clock.

Franchise players Vines and Ammons increased the lead from the free-throw line, and Squad Up wasn't able to score again. Franchise took the final championship game, 100-94.

"Defense was the key to our win. The goal was to stop Pep (Williams) and Allan (McIntosh), but they got a few shots in. It was Franchise all the way," said Cosby.

Cosby led the Franchise with 25 points, eight rebounds, four assists and two steals. "ATL" Smith slam dunked his way to 23 points with 14 boards, seven assists, two steals and a block,

followed by Lewis with 20 points and Ammons with 14.

Williams led Squad Up with 32 points. McIntosh had 26 with 15 rebounds. Ratchford added 16 with 11 rebounds.

Jackson played through a foot injury.

"Our coach went on a visit and that hurt. We could have used somebody to call timeouts," said Williams.

## Holy Names University Tests SQ Inside Tennis Team

Members of the Holy Names University tennis team came into San Quentin and played Inside Tennis Team members.

James Ryan, a freshman from London, said it was his first time in America and first time inside a prison.

Inside Tennis Team members Orlando Harris and Paul Alleyne gave the young visitors a challenge in the Sept. 19 contest.

"It's always fun to be able to go up against younger men," said Harris, who is 52. "It gives

me a barometer to judge where I'm at."

Although the HNU won, 4-1, two games went to deuce.

"I would put you guys at a 4.0 league level," said an HNU player.

Harris started as a novice nine years ago.

Matt Halligan said he came in because, "I'm really interested in learning about prison. Coach said let's do this. He told me about the Bryon Brothers and the Golden State Warriors playing here."

Scott Howard, the coach of HNU, said his guys are ranked 33 in the U.S. They are in the NCAA Division 2.

"I thought it would be a great experience to see that a few miles away life is really different and to give back," said Howard. "I wanted to bring the whole team, but they only let us bring in six guys."

"It gives me a sense of being a part of society and to test my skills against up and coming stars," said ITT's Clay Long.

—Rahsaan Thomas

## Hardtimers Softball Team Out-Slugs Saints, 17-9

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Hardtimers softball team put on a hitting fest to overcome the visiting Saints, 17-9.

The Hardtimers were down 6-0 in the fourth, until Cory Woods' single ignited a major rally. Every Hardtimer singled and scored a run for an 11-6 comeback. The Saints were finally able to field the ball for two outs and a pop-fly.

"Today everything was working. We regrouped and put together a string of hits. Everybody played hard," said Dan White, Hardtimers manager.

The Hardtimers scored three



Cory Woods (cap) and John Windham watching their teammates rally

runs in the fifth. John "Dunnie" Windham and Cory Woods were walked. Then Orlando Harris doubled for two RBIs. Ke Lam Nghiep singled to score Harris for the 14-6 lead.

The Saints put up three runs in the seventh.

Dillion Johnson singled and Steve Cabezd hit a line-drive double for the RBI. Cabezd advanced to third on a Dean Sims single. Chris Bogart singled for the RBI to close the gap 14-9.

"We love to come here and compete. It's good ministry," said Sims.

Hardtimers added three more runs in the seventh. Jason Jones and Isaih "Zeke" Daniels led off with singles.

Then Angelo Ramsey belted a triple for two RBIs. Windham doubled to score Ramsey for the 17-9 victory.

The visiting Saints' players were members of Bridge Church, Santa Rosa Christian and the Alliance.

"We always feel blessed to play these guys. Their coming here helps in our humanity," said Hardtimer Ramsey.

Visitor Ken Finley added "We came here to share our love for the game and God. No matter what the score is, we come to compete."

Saint Jim Bennett concluded "We don't like to lose, but we come here to fellowship. If we can be the hands of Christ, we did our part."

## Kings Roll Past Bittermen, 69-60; Then Trailblazers, 78-66

The San Quentin Kings defeated two visiting teams on consecutive weekends, taking the Bittermen, 69-60, and the Trailblazers, 78-66, in overtime.

In the Sept. 12 game, Marvin Cosby and Charles "Pookie" Sylvester of the Kings basketball team helped hold off the Bittermen for the victory.

"They all played good; we just had more buckets," said Sylvester.

The Bittermen had a one-point lead until Sylvester got hot in the first half. He came off the bench and scored nine straight points, including the completion of a four-point play that developed from being fouled while making a three-pointer.

"Pookie, don't you ever play like that again," joked Bittermen player/coach Ted Saltveit.

It was the first game after coming off Legionnaires' disease lockdown. Kings captain Brain Asey welcomed the Bittermen and thanked them for coming.

"This is our visit," he told

them during a half-court huddle with both teams for pre-game greetings.

"I felt good. Sometimes we need a break. The rest probably made my game better," said Sylvester.

He went for 16 points.

Cosby led the Kings with 23 points.

The Bittermen made a few comeback attempts, coming within four led by Ryan Williams. He had his best game since coming into San Quentin, with 23 points, 10 rebounds, three steals and a block.

"I've been training for this day my whole life," joked Ryan Williams. "We had a change in the cast of characters and this squad clicked for me."

His teammate, John Taylor, logged eight assists to help. In the second half, Taylor hit Williams with a no-look pass for a layup in traffic.

Meanwhile, Bittermen Aidan Coffino had his worst game since coming into San Quentin. Coffino went three for 16 from

the field, finishing with eight points, three rebounds and an assist.

"I was on fire in the warm-ups. It felt good until they put a defender on me," said Coffino.

Despite missing 11 three-point attempts, he made a tough no-look layup from under the basket.

The Bittermen played the Sept. 12 game without their tough point guard, Tim Hall, or their former semi-pro player, Will Wheatly.

Neither Kings forward Thad Fleeton nor center J. "Mailman" Ratchford played in the game. Demond Lewis grabbed 13 boards and scored 11 points.

Kings Coach Orlando Harris said his team won because, "They stayed focused."

In the Sept. 19 game that went into overtime, Ryan Williams topped his 23-point performance the week before by scoring 26 when he returned to San Quentin with the Trailblazers for a rematch.

"I should have had 28, and

then it would have been over in regulation," said Ryan Williams.

With 23 seconds on the clock, the Trailblazers were up one with Brandon Hargrave at the free-throw line. He made one of two, giving his team a 61-59 lead.

"I can't keep splitting free throws," Hargrave said. He made seven out of 16 and scored 11 points with five rebounds, three assists and five steals. New Trailblazer recruit Antwain Capla added nine with eight rebounds and two blocks.

There were eight seconds left in the fourth quarter and the Kings had the ball, down 61-59. Aubra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeely fired off a three-pointer that clanked off the rim into the hands of teammate Lewis at the top of the key. He passed the ball inside to Sylvester, who made the game-tying layup with one second left to play.

In overtime, the Kings pulled away as the Trailblazers struggled to score.

Lewis finished with 10 points, Thad Fleeton 15, Oris "Pep" Williams 13, Sylvester 11 and Marvin Cosby 10.

"We won because we didn't stop playing—grind, grind, grind," said Kings Coach Harris.

Pre-game, referee Cory Woods gave an inspiration talk about how things happen for the best in God's time.

Woods said, "When things go wrong in our lives, we blame the first person we are suppose to rely on — God. That's how I felt when the governor took back my parole date. However, I learned so much more about myself in the year since and everything is coming together. Things happen in God's time, not ours."

Capla, who coaches kids in basketball, said, "It's a beautiful experience coming in to play here. These brothers are doing everything they can to keep themselves doing something positive."

—Rahsaan Thomas



# All-Madden Interception Stops All-Stars Drive

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

In the season opener, San Quentin's All-Madden flag football team edged out the visiting All-Stars for God Ministry, 18-14.

In the defensive battle, the All-Stars were in a position to win, down four points, on second and goal with a minute left in the game.

All-Madden blitzed All-Star quarterback Adam Perez, forcing an interception into the arms of cornerback Jason Jones, stopping the comeback.

"Our guys maintained their discipline and executed all the things we did in practice," said All-Madden Coach Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla.

To start the game, All-Madden's John "Dunnie" Windham intercepted Perez on the 40-yard line. QB Royce Rose followed with a touchdown pass to Windham for the 6-0 lead, after missing the extra point.

All-Madden struck again on a slant thrown by Rose to Nicholas Darrett for the 12-0 lead.

"It's a challenge out there. This is my first season and I'm grateful for this experience," said Darrett.



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Tyrrell Price Sr. breaks for 20 yards as he slips pass Benra Williams and A. Jackson

On offense, the All-Stars found their rhythm with screen plays to Tyson Amir and AJ Haynes.

Perez found Amir in the open gap for the TD. The All-Stars missed the extra point.

Amir had six catches for 68 yards and Haynes had four catches for 42 yards on the day.

Down six, All-Stars defensive linemen Aaron Jones and Phil Volta shut down the All-Madden running game. The big

boys pushed All-Madden back to the goal line, where Rose drop the snap for a safety, making the score 12-8.

All-Madden's D. "Zayd" Nichols sacked Perez to close the half.

During half time, Pastor Wayne Jackson and the Rev. Joel Moore gave inspirational speeches on endurance.

"Endurance is fighting those mental blocks that would have you cheat yourself of something

good. You would want to quit, but you have to fight through it. You have to have hope ... expecting something good is going happen," said Jackson.

Moore added, "Endurance is like fighting with weights on. ... These weights might seem like a burden, but when they come off, we are lighter and stronger for God."

The second half started with Amir picking off Rose.

The All-Stars scored again

when Perez moved to the shotgun for more time and found Amir down the middle for the TD and the 14-12 lead.

Perez threw 15/23 for 141 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

All-Madden's Rose dumped a screen pass to Windham, who took it 20 yards to the five-yard line for first and goal.

Windham finished with three catches for 80 yards and a touchdown.

All-Madden ran a reverse trick play as Jones walked it in to take back the lead 18-14.

Rose threw 5/14 for 102 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

"The line made my job easier. We played as a team, and we got to see the results of our practices," said Rose, referring to linemen Jesus Perez, Gary McDonald and Anthony Redwood.

Kennedy, who used to be a player said, "It's a pleasure to coach these guys I used to play with. Now I'm looking at the game from the outside in."

The Oct. 3 game ended with Amir treating the players to a song from his new spoken-word album, "Traditions," amazing both teams.

# Green Team's Foul Hands Win to SQ Warriors

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

The visiting Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team fouled away a one-point lead with 20 seconds left in regulation, losing to the San Quentin Warriors 105-104.

"Whether we won by one or lost by one, it was a great game," said Ari Warmerdam, who says he played for U.C. Davis back in 2007. This was his first time playing against incarcerated Americans.

With 24 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Green Team point guard David Liss grabbed a long rebound and passed to teammate Chris Blee, who Euro-stepped to the basket for a layup and a 104-103 lead.

"Play hard. They are grown men, and we haven't won in two months and I'm (upset)," said Blee pre-game to 15 teammates huddled around him. He coached in the absence of Bill Epling. Blee didn't put himself into the game until the fourth quarter, where he scored 13 points.



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Kyle Fowlers trying to pass away from Anthony Ammons

Warrior Anthony "Ant" Ammons was bringing the ball down court when someone on the Green Team bench yelled, "Foul him!" Tejas Gala complied, wrapping up Ammons.

"I think it was a good foul because it stopped the clock and gave them a chance to get the ball back and control the game," said Warriors Coach Daniel "Bear" Wright.

From the line, Ammons missed the first shot, but the ref-

eree called a violation because a Green Team player yelled, "Hold up!" Ammons used the second chance well; he hit the next attempt and the additional free throw, giving the Warriors a 105-104 lead, with 20 seconds remaining.

The ball went in to Green Team hot man Warmerdam, who had nailed seven treys. He forsook the long-range shot and dribbled towards the basket, where Smith and another War-

riors defender collapsed, causing Warmerdam to fumble the ball as time ran out.

Warmerdam had 33 points.

"He's was tough - one of the best players I've seen come in here in a minute," said Harry "ATL" Smith. "I started to play him for the shot, but I saw he was capable of driving and closed when he made his move. It was a luckily defensive gamble."

Liss said, "I thought we had them, but we couldn't get a shot off."

Ammons led the Warriors' big three with 30 points and 14 rebounds, including making a three-pointer at the buzzer to close out the second quarter.

"Ant is the heart of this team. Without him, we wouldn't be successful," said Warrior Smith.

Smith added 29 points with 11 rebounds and five steals, including making a layup with the arms of a defender wrapped around him.

"He's a beast," said teammate Allan McIntosh about Smith.

McIntosh added 28 points.

"For 20 seconds we played good defense; the other 47 minutes and 40 seconds, we didn't, but I'll take the win," said Wright.

"I missed Jason Jones. He's huge for me as a ball handler," Wright said about his point guard who missed the game because he was mentoring at-risk youth as part of the SQUIRES program.

Patrick Lacey recruited another Claremont- McKenna teammate, Kevin Sullivan, who managed to block a Smith layup attempt.

Lacey also recruited Liss, who played against him in college. Liss finished with 12 points, two rebounds, five assists and four steals.

"It hurts to admit it, but they're good people," Liss said about his former college basketball rivals.

Remy Pinson added 12 points, with two rebounds, two assists and a steal.

"Thank you for beating us again," joked Blee after the close game.

# Barons Beat A's, 6-3, in Season's Forced Finale

In a hard-fought battle, the visiting Barons beat the San Quentin A's, 6-3, in the season finale.

In the play of the day, the A's Carlyle "Otter" Blake attempted to steal by doing his best Superman impersonation. He leaped over the Barons' second baseman but was still tagged out.

"That was amazing. I've been playing baseball for 20 years and I've never seen anybody jump over a player and the base like that," said Baron Rob Eifler.

San Quentin's baseball sea-

son ended while the prison was on lockdown over Legionnaires' disease.

The Barons' defense was strong all game. Barons catcher Casey Hildreth threw out three A's players attempting to steal.

The father and son team of Frank and Louis Derosa turned double plays with ease to get out of the fourth and fifth.

"We finally had a winning season against these guys. Our confidence is up; now we come here expecting to win," said Baron Kyle Peterson.

The Barons overcame a 2-1

A's lead in the fourth. L. Derosa opened with a double and moved to third on a Rob Foster single. Peterson singled for the score.

Both runners advanced off a wild pitch by the A's Chris Marshall. Baron Chris Lerma singled to score Foster for the 4-2 lead.

The A's scored in the eighth, after Barons Pitcher Eifler walked four straight batters for a run with two outs.

Mike Kremer relieved Eifler and struck out the next batter, holding on to a 4-3 lead.

The Barons added two runs

in the ninth. Josh Lamb doubled, and Jimmy Shoemaker singled. Lerma smashed a line drive double for the two RBIs. The A's got out the inning off two pop flies and a ground out to second, down 6-3.

"We played hard; but we couldn't put enough runs together. We faced some good pitching and hitting. These guys (Barons) really came to play," said the A's Rob Tyler.

The A's other runs came in the second and fourth. Royce Rose singled to score Blake after he walked and stole second. In the fourth, Marshall

singled and Bilal "Mr. 99" Coleman doubled for the RBI.

"This is my farewell season. I will be paroling soon. When you can get guys from different walks of life to create a brotherhood, you have something good. I will support these guys and this program from the outside," said Coleman.

Foster added, "It's sad that this is the last game. We had a good time. We laugh, joked, and we knew it will always be competitive. I'm looking forward for next year."

-Marcus Henderson



# Facebook Czar Zuckerberg Pays a Visit to SQ

*Continued from Page 1*

Later, reflecting on his historic visit, Zuckerberg wrote on his personal Facebook page: "I'm going to keep learning about this topic, but some things are already clear. We can't jail our way to a just society, and our current system isn't working."

Warden Ron Davis, summed up the visit this way:

***"Making our criminal justice system fairer and more effective is a huge challenge for our country"***

"It's special when you can have an innovator, someone who has changed the course of history, who has given man another way to connect with each other — for him to come inside a world that is disconnected and learn about our community and our effort to rehabilitate people is extraordinary."

Zuckerberg said earlier this year he read Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* and it impacted his view about prisons.

"I wanted to visit a prison that had really good success and meet some of the folks," Zuckerberg said.

The Facebook billionaire and his staff toured CALPIA and other California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) programs.

Zuckerberg was greeted by Warden Davis, Prison Industry Authority board Vice-Chair Darshan Singh and CALPIA General Manager Chuck Pattillo, among others.

Zuckerberg met and talked with offenders from CALPIA's Code.7370, a nationally recognized program in which Silicon Valley tech experts help offenders learn computer-coding skills without Internet access.

After looking at a couple of projects on which the inmates were working, he wanted to know how the class was taught, what inmates were learning,

and how many hours a day they spent coding.

"You know, that's how I got started — coding," Zuckerberg told the inmates.

The new Code.7370 curriculum utilizes program architecture to simulate a live coding environment.

"The real-world job experience this computer coding class provides is beneficial to offenders and the general public," said Pattillo. "If a person can leave prison, get a job and not come back, it saves taxpayers money and keeps communities safer."

Code.7370 is part of CALPIA's Career Technical Education (CTE) program, which has a proven track record for success. Graduates in CTE programs have some of the lowest recidivism rates in the country, with a cumulative rate of 7.13 percent.

While visiting the coding class, Zuckerberg met with Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti.

Redlitz and Parenti co-founded another highly successful program for inmates, called The Last Mile (TLM).

They established TLM in 2010 at San Quentin, utilizing the experience and resources of successful entrepreneurs, leveraging their extensive network in the technology business community to help bridge the gap between the penal system and the technology sector.

Redlitz and Parenti also co-founded Code.7370 with CALPIA.

Zuckerberg asked the *San Quentin News* reporting inmates to describe the most surprising thing about the first time they came to prison.

Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo T. Garcia, 63, said he came to prison the first time at age 18. "I was scared," said Garcia, explaining how prison was much more violent back in the 1970s.

"I also came to prison at 18," Design Editor Richard "Bonaru" Richardson said. "It was nothing like TV. There were some people inside who had very negative attitudes, but there were also some good people in here, too. I learned that I had to deal with people as they are."

Richardson told Zuckerberg he grew up in Modesto, where all he encountered were negative role models.

"While in prison, there's no place to run," Richardson said. "I had to face my problems head on, so I had to learn how to avoid those negative role models."

Zuckerberg was interested in how inmates got to San Quentin.

"You don't start your incarceration at a place like San Quentin," Garcia said. "You

have to work your way down to a progressive prison like this."

Garcia talked about the new CDCR program that allows younger offenders to avoid being sent to maximum security prisons and stay at a lower level institution like San Quentin.

"The youngsters we've encountered are very receptive to being at San Quentin," Garcia said. "*San Quentin News* is reaching out to the youngsters to get them into programs so that

they would have a better chance of staying out of prison once they get out."

Referring to his visit, Zuckerberg said, "It's still sinking in," adding "I was surprised by the focus on learning here. Also, I didn't expect to find a fully functioning newspaper."

"Making our criminal justice system fairer and more effective is a huge challenge for our country," Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook site.



Dr. Priscilla Chan, Warden Ron Davis and Mark Zuckerberg

Alan Barrett of CALPIA



Chuck Pattillo escorting Mark Zuckerberg to San Quentin's computer coding program

Alan Barrett of CALPIA



Aly Tamboura shows Mark Zuckerberg a web application he developed in Code 7370

Alan Barrett of CALPIA

## Dear Reader:

Our message of rehabilitation and criminal justice reform is spreading because of your support. Thank you.

We've expanded into 21 prison libraries in California where the *San Quentin News* is distributed to inmates for free. We are moving closer to our goal: making it accessible to every prisoner in the state of California.

One way you can help us get our rehabilitative message to more prisoners is to donate any amount. Donors who contribute \$40 or more will receive *San Quentin News* for one year.

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