

# San Quentin News

THE  
REVA & DAVID LOGAN  
FOUNDATION

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
JOURNALISTS

Award Winner

VOL. 2016 NO. 6 June 2016

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 4,057

## Celebrating 2016 Day of Peace

By Juan Haines and Miguel Quezada

More than 400 inmates and about two dozen Bay Area volunteers mingled on San Quentin's Lower Yard at the annual Day of Peace celebration to showcase the various self-help programs available at the prison.

The May 7 event recognized the late Audrey Auld who performed at last year's cel-

ebration. Pam Delgado and Jeri Jones of Bread & Roses performed in her honor.

The Day of Peace is in response to a 2006 interracial riot that occurred just before a scheduled yard event. Afterward, a multiracial group of men, most serving life sentences, came together and went to the administration asking for a Day of Peace.

See *Day of Peace* on Page 11



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Graduates from tribes 641, 715 and 742

## 80 Committed Men Graduates From GRIP

By Marcus Henderson  
Staff Writer

The 2016 Guiding Rage into Power 'GRIP' program graduated 80 dedicated men.

The year program guided prisoners on a deep healing journey inside themselves.

"Today these men are graduating from offenders into servants." Said Jacques Verduin, GRIP Director and host of the event. "This program is ready to replicate."

Families, friends and volunteers pack the visiting room to witness the graduation of tribes 641, 715 and 742. Each

group represented its combined amount of prison time served.

See *GRIP* on Page 10



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Pam Delgado and Jeri Jones

## Opening Day on the Diamond

Warden Ron Davis showed he had some power in his arm throwing out the opening pitch in the season opener.

The San Quentin All-Stars baseball team beat the visiting Bay Area Mission 5-2.

John Windham, All-Stars power hitter, smashed a deep double to center field that started a rally in the bottom of the eighth with the score tied 2-2.

Windham scored off a Richard Zorn single. Zorn stole

second base to put himself in scoring position. Ruben Harper's single past the shortstop drove in Zorn. Harper stole second and moved to third on an error. Veteran Anthony Denard's line-drive past third brought in Harper. With the bases loaded, Mission's pitcher caught Chris Marshall leading too much off of third for the final out.

"That happens every year," said Elliot Smith, All-Stars sponsor and manager. "We

will work on that, but I'm happy that we played hard to the end."

All-Stars premier pitcher Dewey Dumont sealed the game with a pop-up and by striking out the last two batters.

"It's good to get the first game jitters out the way," said Denard. "Now we can focus on getting better. I'm just thankful for everything everyday."

See *Opening* on Page 17



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Lt. S. Robinson and Vicky Waters tour South Dining Hall

## CDCR's New Press Secretary Visits SQ

Vicky Waters, the new California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) press secretary, toured San Quentin.

Lt. S. Robinson, Public Information Officer, gave Waters a tour of the prison's new Central Health Services Building, one of the general population units, Death Row and the media center.

"Her choosing San Quentin as

the first prison to come shows this is where things are happening," said Larry Schneider, staff and SQ Television Specialist. "We have the most programs and the media center. I'm looking forward to a positive working relationship."

Waters has an extensive background in journalism that qualifies her for the position.

See *New CDCR's* on Page 4



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Warden Ron Davis throws out first pitch for season opener

**The California Supreme Court ruled, on June 6, that Gov. Jerry Brown may present his prison reduction initiative to California voters this November. See Brown's Initiative on Page 6**

### Important Notice:

San Quentin News raises funds through an affiliated private organization. Please send tax-deductible donations to: Social Good, P.O. Box 5473 Richmond, CA 94805 Under check memo section, please write "Friends of San Quentin News" Thank you for your support.

INSIDE EDITION # 81

80 committed men	1	Pope Francis responds	8
Celebrating 2016	1	Welcome home veterans	8
Opening day	1	Naturally talented artist	9
CDCR's Press Secretary	1	Solano Shakespeare	9
Photographer Nigel Poor	2	Donavon inmates writes	9
Restore voting rights	3	Arts & Entertainment	12
Voting rights	3	News Briefs	13
Voter initiatives monetizes	3	Wordcross	13
Treatment costs of hep C	4	Aumenta Numero de	14
Obama calls for \$1.1 billion	4	Latino youth	14
Soledad's medical	4	Woman receives cert.	14
Exonerated after 34 years	5	SQ Chapel services	15
Ban the Box	5	Kevin Carr	15
Private prison profits	5	Book Review	16
Wrongful convictions costs	5	Asked On The Line	16
Calif. \$15.6 billion budget	6	MAC Corner	16
Brown's initiative	6	Beverly Parenti	17
Overcrowding in jails	6	The Last Mile's graduate	17
Kid CAT Speaks	7	Sports	18-19
Restorative Justice	8	Amala walk	20

# Photographer Nigel Poor Conveys the Stories of SQ Inmates

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Ten years ago the post office delivered a letter from San Quentin State Prison to the wrong address. Professor of Photography Nigel Poor received the letter, wondering why. The correct address was nowhere near hers. She redirected the epistle to the correct person, thinking that would be the end of it. But it happened twice more, sparking her interest in San Quentin prison and how people inside communicate.

"What people inside have to say is amazing," said Poor. "They are a huge underutilized resource. If more people heard the stories of men behind bars, they would make better decisions about mass incarceration."

"I photographed humble things. If you investigate something you realize there is a lot more there. Most people think prisoners are nothing. Throw them away. But if you investigate..."

Poor, a professor at California State University, Sacramento, first got interested in prison from hearing on a radio show that Kresty Detention Center in Russia charges admission to tourists.

"Hearing they do zoo tours to make money freaked me out," said Poor. "I wanted to go to Russia to see what a country is like that thinks that is a thing to do."

In 2000, she found herself in St. Petersburg, but people wouldn't help her find the prison. She ran across it while leaving - it was right next to the train station.

"I walked into the prison (on a tour). You could touch the walls. I found cones on



Courtesy of Nigel Poor

Nigel Poor

the ground everywhere," said Nigel. "I like things that you can't really answer; it's a mystery you can ponder."

Cones are notes rolled up and placed like long stems with chewed up bread for weight.

"That's how they sent messages out of that horrible violent place," said Poor. "The cones were thrown out, but you don't know if somebody will get it. I picked one up."

Poor didn't know that Russian police watch to see who picks up the cones. Sometimes the cones are messages to criminals.

"I didn't know if it was a romantic gesture or a criminal act," said Poor. "To me it was a call to connect."

In 2011, Poor heard about an opportunity to teach photography inside San Quentin as part of the Prison University Project (PUP). She took the chance.

"Photos are a common ground, a form of communication, and teaching photography allowed me to connect in interesting ways," said Poor. "I got sucked in by all the humanity."

There Poor met student Troy Williams, who headed the San Quentin Prison Report (SQPR), San Quentin's TV and radio program. The two planned to do a film about the prison, but it got too complicated, and they ended up doing radio pieces that are sometimes played on 91.7 FM, KALW's *Crosscurrents* show on Monday nights at 5 p.m.

"I think that inside and outside people can work as colleagues," said Poor.

In 2012, after three semesters with PUP, Nigel switched over to SQPR.

"The radio thing is fantastic," said Poor. "We can do all different types of stories. I feel like I'm part of something that is incredibly innovative, something important. We are going down a route that has not been fully investigated, and all of us are constantly learning. Human nature is constantly being revealed here."

In 2015, Poor expanded her role inside of San Quentin. She helped facilitate a live storytelling event called Live Law.

"I think the live shows are interesting because it's really surprising for guests to see outside and inside people doing something inspiring, and I hope it inspires them to get involved. That was one of the peak experiences of my life."

After the Live Law event, San Quentin Media, which Poor sponsors in addition to SQPR, was born.

SQ Media's next event, called Prison Renaissance, will focus on stories about how art transforms incarcerated people.

"There are so many people with talents and skills that are languishing inside when they could be productive. I think humans need to be productive or there's atrophy. Working with SQ Media is interesting, a challenge and important, and it feels good to be part of that."

Additionally, Poor is working on a podcast called Ear Hustle with SQPR's Earlonne Woods and Antwan "Banks" Williams.

"Taking the chance at volunteering, you just never know what will happen," said Poor. "Taking the opportunity to go someplace new can completely change your life."



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 artwork (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:

CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
To receive a copy of the *San Quentin News* in the mail, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to:

San Quentin News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964

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

Behind the Scenes

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

## San Quentin News

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

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

### Administrative Review

Warden's Office ..... Lt.S. Robinson  
..... Sgt. Chris Siino  
CDCR Public Information Officer .....  
..... Kristina Khokhobashvili  
Adviser ..... Linda Xiques  
Adviser ..... William Drummond  
Adviser ..... Joan Lisetor  
Adviser ..... Jon Spurlock  
Researcher ..... Richard Lindsey

### San Quentin News Staff

Editor-in-Chief ..... Richard Richardson  
Executive Editor ..... Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Senior Editor ..... Juan Haines  
Managing Editor ..... Miguel Quezada  
Associate Editor/Journalism Guild Chairman (A) ..... Kevin D. Sawyer  
Staff Writer ..... Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer ..... Marcus Henderson  
Staff Writer ..... Davontae T. Pariani  
Staff Writer ..... Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer ..... Chung Kao  
Staff Writer ..... Wesley Eisinger  
Photographer ..... Eddie Herena  
Layout Designer ..... Keung Vanh  
Layout Designer ..... Jonathan Chiu



Courtesy of Nigel Poor

Photo of a Russian cone

# A Movement to Restore Voting Rights to Ex-felons

*“Felony voter disenfranchisement” runs counter to basic ideas about democracy*

By Larry Smith  
Journalism Guild Writer

A movement is under way to restore voting rights to more ex-felons, *The Juvenile Justice Information Exchange* reports.

“The biggest obstacle in most states is that people just do not know that they ever could get their rights restored,” said Edward A. Hailes Jr., managing director and general counsel at the Advancement Project, a civil rights organization.

An estimated 5.85 million

U.S. citizens cannot vote because they have a felony conviction on their record; most of them are out of prison and on parole, probation or other surveillance having completed their terms, according to the Sentencing Project.

The number quoted reflects an estimate of those who were convicted before they were 18 years old. Some reformers say the concept known as “felony voter disenfranchisement” runs counter to basic ideas about democracy and leaves entire communities without a

voice, the Sentencing Project relates.

With contests being decided by a few hundred votes, as was the case in Florida, it is concluded that former felons could help make a difference for candidates in close races.

The *Exchange* reported there has been a recent easing of state activity around the country as it relates to voting for those with criminal records. This gives some reformers optimism, as involved felons won’t have to wait out their full terms before exercising their newly

restored rights to vote.

It’s important to change laws and to make sure those with felony records who can vote know they have that right, said Tomas Lopez, counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice.

The disenfranchised group includes about 2.2 million Blacks – indicating roughly one in 13 Black adults is denied the right to vote because of a felony conviction, the Sentencing Project reported.

“Even if only one person was affected by this policy, it raises fundamental questions by what we mean by democracy,” said Marc Mauer, executive director of the Sentencing Project.

Twenty-eight states passed laws on felon voting rights restoration; many of them lifting restrictions. Seven states repealed lifetime disenfranchisement for some people with felony records, according to the data maintained by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Some states moved in the other direction, such as by Iowa.

Last fall, outgoing Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, a Democrat, issued an executive order that would have made it easier to get people to the voting booth; incoming Gov. Matt Bevin, a Republican, rolled it back, saying the issue is a legislative one.

In 2015, three states considered major reforms, including Maryland. Wyoming passed a bill that would allow more ex-felons to vote, the *Exchange* reported. By early February of this year, 46 bills had been introduced in 16 states that deal with felony voter rights, nearly all of which erased the process for offenders or offered support to navigate the rights-restoration process, the story stated.

---

*“Even if only one person was affected by this policy, it raises fundamental questions by what we mean by democracy”*

---

State reforms alone will not be enough, though, said Lewis Webb of the American Friends Service Committee. Better education about who can vote and grassroots action to get people to the voting booths are also needed.

“I do believe for this to have any real traction, it’s going to have to return to the street,” Webb said.

## Voting Rights a Major Issue For Upcoming Election

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

Voting rights in 2016 will once again become a major issue among eligible voters in 16 states as laws are passed to make voting more difficult.

An interview conducted by Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now, with Ari Berman, a journalist for *The Nation*, revealed the year 2016 will be the first time in 50 years that full protection of the Voting Rights Act won’t be available to all voters.

Goodman recounted the Supreme Court decision which eradicated important elements of the voting act, in the case *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*. The ruling opened the door for some states with prior voting discriminatory issues to implement changes to their voting laws without getting consent from the federal government.

“South Carolina has a new voter ID law,” said Berman. “63,000 is the number of minority voters without IDs, who could not vote under the law.” Individuals without IDs will need to show a valid excuse as to why they do not have an ID, in order to be considered for eligibility.

Further questioning by Goodman extracted information of even more egregious practices in other states. In Texas, strict voting laws have created a huge disparity in the Black’s and Hispanic’s ability to vote.

Berman elaborated on the matter. “Six hundred thousand registered voters [in Texas] don’t have a government ID.” According to the report, having a government ID is more likely among the White population, whereas Blacks and Hispanics are two to three times less likely to have one.

“In Texas, you can vote with a gun permit, but not a student ID,” Berman added in the interview.

Goodman pressed Berman to lay out a solution to the current problem. She introduced the concepts of early voting, same-day voter registration and automatic voter registra-

tion to get a lot more people involved in the political process.

According to the interview, in many instances states are withholding information which would allow affected individuals to still have an opportunity to vote. For example, in South Carolina people are told they need one of five forms of ID to qualify for voting. In actuality, a person could still vote by casting a provisional ballot and signing an affidavit.

This type of deception can lead to frustration by potential voters, prompting these individuals to stay at home and not participate in the election process. Berman acknowledged there could be several reasons why people did not show up to vote, but concludes that “there are certainly some people that didn’t show up because of the voter ID law.”

---

*“63,000 is the number of minority voters without IDs, who could not vote under the law”*

---

With 16 states presently enforcing voter restrictions, the fairness of the process is being put into question.

One of the most closely contested elections in recent history happened in Florida in 2000 when only 537 votes separated George W. Bush from Al Gore. So many people in Florida were unable to vote for a number of reasons and the discrepancy in the legality of who qualified as a registered voter was contested all the way to the Supreme Court.

The Republican candidates running for president have taken their positions on the voting issue. Ted Cruz and Donald Trump believe restrictions should be put in place or left as they are.

Often during campaign sea-

son, candidates on the stump get away with saying things without validity. For example, Donald Trump in New Hampshire spoke at a rally concerning the current voting structure. “Look, you’ve got to have real security with the voting system. This voting system is out of control. You have people, in my opinion, that are voting ‘many, many’ times. They don’t want security. They don’t want cards.”

In the interview Berman said that there’s no evidence that people are voting ‘many, many’ times. While there have been issues in the past with voter impersonation, only 31 cases since 2000 have been reported with approximately a billion votes cast, he said.

In addition, there are other concerns with voting rights, alienating citizens from voting. Berman spoke directly to the disenfranchisement laws. “More than 5 million Americans can’t vote because of felon disenfranchisement laws, including one in 13 African Americans.”

The interview with Goodman addressed many of the problems associated with not having a voting bill to protect the voting public and process. Alternatively, Berman offered an example of a model that appears to be working for at least one state. Though the diverse demographic differs from larger more homogenous states, Vermont has voting laws in place to help its citizens rather than hinder them.

“Vermont has some of the best laws in the country,” Berman said. “They have same-day voter registration.”

Access to true and fair representation from local, state and national politicians is being greatly affected by voter restriction in many states of the country.

Same-day voter registration has produced a 10 percent increase in voter turnout, according to Berman. While states like Vermont and Minnesota have really good voting laws, states such as Texas, Alabama and South Carolina are heading in an opposite direction, he said.

## Voter Initiatives Monetize the Petition Process

By Wayne Boatwright  
Journalism Guild Writer

This presidential year has inspired many potential voter initiatives and further monetizes the petition process.

In theory, a petition to place an initiative on the ballot is a form of direct democracy, allowing voters to circumvent the legislature to pass a new law. On an average election cycle, five to seven initiatives make the ballot.

### SIGNATURES

For the 2016 election, seven have already qualified, and there are petitions for at least a dozen more seeking to meet the statutory minimum requirement of 365,880 signatures by registered California voters.

Political committees have spent almost \$10 million in petition payments through 2015, and significantly more will be spent if any additional petitions meet the requirement by the 2016 election deadline, according to *The Sacramento Bee*.

To supplement volunteers, initiative campaigns hire pe-

tion circulation firms to reach a minimum safe threshold of 500,000 signatures to have a good chance of qualifying for the ballot. These firms charge from \$1 to \$5 per signature, according to Carl Towe, head of one such firm. These costs are in addition to those necessary to defend the initiative from opponents and to educate voters if it makes the ballot.

### DEATH PENALTY

Gov. Jerry Brown’s parole initiative and the death penalty repeal supported by M\*A\*S\*H star Mike Farrell are paying \$5 per signature.

“I have never, never seen this much money paid on this many petitions. Ever,” said Fred Kimball, head of another such signature firm and quoted in *The Sacramento Bee*.

With stores like Wal-Mart, Target and Safeway instituting policies to ban solicitors and so many initiatives seeking to make the ballot, the price is only likely to go up. As Towe ended a recent message to his signature gatherers: “Make the hay while the sun shines.”

# Treatment Costs of Hep C for Inmates on the Rise

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Only a few states and the federal government have increased spending on a new generation of drugs to treat hepatitis C, reports *The Marshall Project*.

An estimated 3.5 million people in the U.S. are infected with hepatitis C, and a third of them pass through prisons and jails every year, according to the Feb. 26 report.

For doctors and public health experts, this is an opportunity to wipe out the virus in prisons and possibly lower infection rates nationwide, the report

notes. It says prisons see sticker shock: the new drugs cost as much as \$1,000 a day.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo directed the corrections department to prioritize the treatment of hepatitis C, said Morris Peters, a spokesman for the governor. He also said, "Testing and treatment will lead to better public health outcomes, saving taxpayer dollars in the long term."

Left untreated, experts say hepatitis C can cause cirrhosis, end-stage liver disease and liver cancer. A new generation of treatments called direct-acting agents, or DAAs, can cure hepatitis C more than 95 percent of

the time in 12 to 24 weeks, according to the project's report.

Research suggests that aggressive testing and treatment in prisons found that cure rates among patients were higher than among similar populations on the outside, the report stated.

Gilead inaugurated the newest generation of DAAs in December 2013 by pricing Sovaldi at \$1,000 per pill, the report says.

Harish Moorjani, infectious

disease doctor who treats hepatitis C in New York state prisons, said, "That is a very hard sell for administrators...this has to be governor-driven."

The report lists increase spending on hepatitis C in prisons by the following states and federal government in 2015:

California spent \$57.6 million, a 453.8 percent increase.

New York spent \$25 million, a 166 percent increase.

Federal government spent

\$13.7 million, a 128.7 percent increase.

The federal system treated 200 prisoners with DAAs, while California, under federal receivership, has treated upward of 900, said the report.

New DAAs are entering the market all the time. The newest, Zepatier, was approved in January. Merck, its manufacturer, priced it at \$54,600, almost half the competition's price, according to the report.

## Soledad's Medical Operations Return Back to CDCR

By Noel Scott  
Journalism Guild Writer

Medical operations at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad were turned over again to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) by J. Clark Kelso, the federal receiver, reports the Correctional News.

It's only the second prison (after Folsom) to receive a passing grade from the state inspector general in a decade of federal control.

Don Spector, director of the Prison Law Offices, and their experts, however, found problems with the quality and type of care being provided at the Soledad facility and voiced their concerns.

As a result Kelso and other department officials will have their experts return to Soledad in six months to see if conditions

have improved.

"The CDCR must be operating all 34 adult institutions for a year before the court will even consider ending the receivership," said Thelton Henderson, U.S. District Court Judge.

Last July, the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco also got a passing grade from the receiver, but the decision to return control back to CDCR was stayed in lieu of Governor Brown's decision on whether Norco would be kept open.

In January, the governor's office announced that Norco will stay open so the state can stay below the prison population cap set by the federal court.

Over the past decade, California has spent \$2 billion on new medical facilities and doubled its health care budget to around \$1.7 billion. It has also reduced the prison population by 40,000 inmates, says the CDCR.

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

President Obama is calling for \$1.1 billion in new federal funding to combat growing heroin and prescription painkiller abuse problems.

Obama's 2017 budget proposal will include \$1 billion mandatory funding over two years to make addiction treatments more affordable, mcclatchydc.com reported Feb. 7.

Some \$920 million would fund cooperative agreements with states to provide more drug-based treatment of addictions to painkilling opioids such as OxyContin, Percocet, hydrocodone and morphine, the story said.

"This is a problem destroying lives and families across America that needs to be addressed," said Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.) "I strongly support efforts to fight the heroin and drug abuse epidemic in this country and look forward to reviewing the president's proposal."

In Florida, Manatee and Sarasota counties reported heroin overdoses more than doubled from 63 in 2014 to

more than 150 in 2015. Manatee County's heroin epidemic began in 2014, when police began seeing increased use of fentanyl, an opioid pain reliever 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine. Three out of four new heroin users reported abusing opioid pain relievers before using heroin.

Heroin overdoses in the U.S. soared from about 2,000 in 2002 to about 11,000 in 2014, the story reported.

About \$50 million would fund expansion of services to roughly 700 drug treatment facilities and another \$30 million will be used to evaluate drug treatment that provides medication-assisted treatment services.

About \$500 million would expand overdose prevention efforts, provide more medica-

tion-assisted treatment of addicts, and improve access to naloxone – an emergency-use drug that reverses overdoses.

The money would target rural areas where opioid use and overdoses are increasing. The proposal would allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe the opioid-addiction treatment drug buprenorphine.



Official photo

President Barack Obama

## New CDCR's Press Secretary's First Prison Tour

Continued from Page 1

She has been the vice president of public affairs at Ogilvy Public Relations since 2015, and was the deputy director of public affairs at the California Department of Parks and Recreation from 2012 to 2015.

She was also the director of media relations at the California Charter Schools Association and an account executive at BPCubed Inc.

Prior to that, Waters was a freelance journalist, independent public relations consultant and translator. She also was the Sacramento correspondent at *La Opinión* newspaper.

"As a minority woman with her diverse background, I think she can also understand the prisoner side of the struggles," said Charles David Henry, Journalism Guild Writer. "Her résumé shows she can be flexible."

Waters also has a background in television.

She was an anchor, reporter and producer at Univision Sacramento and evening anchor, reporter and producer at Univision Corpus Christi.



Photo by Harold Meeks

Lt. Sam Robinson, Kristina Khokhobashvili, Vicky Waters, Linda Xiques and Nikki Meredith

She worked as news editor and broadcast operator at WRAL-TV in Texas.

At the media center Waters met with the *San Quentin News*, SQ Television department and radio staffs. She said she was a regular reader of *San Quentin News* and was impressed with the quality of reporting.

"I feel privileged to be a part of a newspaper that draws the interest of someone in her po-

sition," said Eddie Herena, *SQ News* photographer. "She is direct evidence that this is more than a prison newspaper."

Arnulfo T. Garcia, *SQ News* Executive Editor, added, "I think her work at Univision will bring an understanding for the Hispanic community in CDCR. Her energy and having worked all aspects of the newsroom contributed to her appointment to CDCR."

The visit to the San Quentin newsroom after being appointed press secretary showed us how dear and important journalism is to her life.

The SQ TV showed Waters various productions, starting with an introduction piece they did for San Quentin's TEDx event last January.

"She seemed receptive of what we do here," said E. "Phil" Phillips, SQ TV cameraman

and video editor. "I don't think she sees us just as inmates, but fellow journalists.

"The videos were to show we can be an asset to the outside community. We just need more people to get involved."

She viewed two public service addresses, an anti-sex trafficking piece, and an admonishment against criminal behavior. She also saw a promotion video about an ecology program.

"It was productive," said Antwan Williams, SQPR sound engineer and designer. "It allowed her to put a face with the titles. It gave her a chance to see people working for change."

Earlone Woods, SQ TV and radio producer, added, "When it comes to CDCR, you just see the names. So it was good for us to meet the person who would look over our work and might have questions."

Waters indicated interest in returning to the prison in order to learn more about the stories inmates are working on. She said she was impressed and excited about the reporting San Quentin inmates are doing.

—Marcus Henderson and Juan Haines

# Exonerated After 34 Years With No Compensation

By Noel Scott  
Journalism Guild Writer

After 34 years of imprisonment, Lewis Jim Fogle was exonerated in Pennsylvania by DNA evidence. His compensation for spending more than half his life behind bars: zero.

"It's the state's responsibility to make it right with me for what they cost me. They took my family away from me. They took my whole life away from me," Fogle told the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*. Pennsylvania and 19 other states provide no compensation for those who have been exonerated and wrongly convicted.

Had Fogle been exonerated in Alabama, he would have received \$1.7 million or in Texas,

\$2.72 million plus an annuity of equal value.

Since 1989, hundreds of people nationally have been exonerated by DNA evidence. In 2015 alone, 149 people were exonerated, which broke the record set the previous year as reported by the National Registry of Exonerations.

As it stands in Pennsylvania, there are no re-entry services, such as housing, health care, education or job counseling for exonerees like Fogle, reported the *Post Gazette*.

"It's weird as heck. They have halfway houses for people who committed a crime, but don't have a dang thing for people who didn't commit a crime. They just threw me out here and

expected me to survive," said Fogle.

As of now, Fogle receives SSI benefits of \$733 a month for being disabled by the post-traumatic stress of his wrongful conviction.

Through the Innocence Project that found the DNA evidence, Fogle's rent will be paid for the next year. They are also paying for weekly therapy visits and have guided him to government benefits like food stamps.

"The Innocence Project did me right. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be able to survive. But the state should be doing it," said Fogle.

Several Innocence Project offices nationally have teamed up to get states to enact statutes that

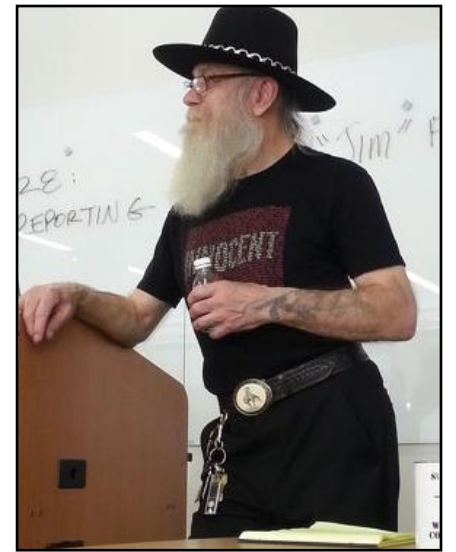
would provide compensation of a least \$63,000 per year of incarceration, which is the maximum amount provided under federal statute.

The "government understands the need for re-entry services – it provides them to people coming out of prison who did commit crimes, but for the innocent there is nothing," said Rebecca Brown, policy director for the Innocence Project in New York.

Three days after Fogle's exoneration in September 2015, he requested a meeting with Senator Don White (R-Indiana, Penn.) Then, at the end of October, Fogle met with White in his office and made his pitch for a Pennsylvania statute to compensate exonerees.

"Until I get compensation, I can't rebuild my life," Fogle told the senator.

"We need to make sure this person, having been wronged, has the ability to re-enter society, contribute to society and have the security to move forward," said Marissa B. Bluestine, legal director of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project in



Courtesy of indianagazette.com

Jim Fogle

Philadelphia.

Bluestine, who plans to introduce a bill to the legislature calling for compensation and re-entry awards for exonerees, also plans to have Fogle and other exonerees testify at legislative hearings across the state.

"No one is getting rich here. It's just about justice so they can get on with their lives," said Bluestine.

At this time, an exoneree's compensation statute still has not been passed in the state of Pennsylvania.

## Ban the Box Underway Across The Country

By Marcus Henderson  
Staff Writer

The "Ban the Box" movement is gaining support across the country, boosting the chance of people with criminal records to get jobs, a report says.

Twenty-three states and more than 100 cities and counties nationwide have adopted some form of "Ban the Box," which prohibits a question on whether the job applicant has a criminal record, according to the National Employment Law Project.

California adopted its initiative in 2013, when Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 218. It removes the questions about convictions from initial state, city and county job applications.

That allows an employer to consider a job candidate's qualifications first, without the stigma of a criminal record, according to the March 2016 report.

San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the Fair Chance Ordinance in February 2014 after a three-year campaign by multiple

human rights and civil rights groups. Most notable was the group "All or None," which has been a driving force in multiple cities and counties.

The ordinance applies to private employers and affordable housing. It incorporated the 2012 U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission criteria for individualized assessment and the right to appeal denial of employment.

The commission also set a guideline on targeted hiring and fair-chance employment laws that require employers to consider job-relatedness of a conviction, time passed, and mitigating circumstances or rehabilitation evidence, the report stated.

At an event in Oakland, business owners and potential employers discussed the benefits of hiring people with records and re-entry issues.

"I've seen how a job makes all the difference," the report quotes Derreck B. Johnson, founder and president of Home of Chicken and Waffles in Oakland. "When I give someone a chance and he becomes my best employee, I know that I'm doing right by my community."

The city of Oakland improved its policy in 2010, where the city would notify the applicant of the potential adverse employment action and provide a copy of the background report. It also provides the applicant an opportunity to rebut the accuracy or relevancy of the background report.

Other California counties that have passed a "Ban the Box" law are Alameda and Santa Clara. Cities are Berkeley, Carson, Compton, East Palo Alto, Pasadena and Richmond.

"We should have a fair shake if we are the right person for the job," San Quentin prisoner Tommy Wickerd said in an interview. "If I fit the criteria to be back in society, a felony shouldn't hold me back"

Another prisoner, Bo Gentry, said, "People should be judged by their character and not their past. What is behind should not be in front of you."

## Wrongful Convictions Costs Californians Millions of Dollars

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

It has cost California taxpayers more than \$220 million to overturn 600 wrongful convictions over two decades, a university study reports.

Individuals who had their conviction overturned were paid \$80 million, the study found. Settlements for wrongful conviction cases cost \$68 million, "and an additional \$68 million was spent on trials and appeals," the *Los Angeles Times* reported March 10.

"The effort to put a price on prosecutorial misconduct, errant judicial rulings and forensic lab mistakes was undertaken by the Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the Quattron Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania," the newspaper reported.

The study reviewed 692 cases from 1989 to 2012 and adjusted the cost to 2013 dollar values.

"The study examined cases in which felony convictions were reversed, and the defendants were either released or acquitted on retrial. Whether the defendant was guilty or in-

nocent ... was 'unknowable,'" the *Times* reported.

The 2000 Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division scandal resulted in 85 felony cases being overturned. Prosecutors sought to dismiss these cases because the credibility of the officers involved in these incidents was questionable. The city paid out \$78 million in settlements, the newspaper noted.

"Most errors were in cases involving violent crimes, and one out of five overturned convictions had resulted in a life sentence. It took an average of eight years for the 92 overturned cases involving murder to be reversed. While judicial mistakes at trial, including improper instructions to juries or ruling on evidence, were the most common causes for reversal, cited in 164 cases, prosecutorial misconduct was found in 86 of the cases," the *Times* reported.

More than 200,000 defendants are convicted each year in California. "We reject the proposition that an acceptable rate of error can apply to proceedings that impact people's lives in the way that criminal prosecutions can," the researchers argue.

## Private Prisons Profits Compound Mass Incarceration Problems

By David B. Le  
Journalism Guild Writer

America should take the millions of dollars that private jail and prison companies make and instead spend it to solve the country's mass incarceration problems, a *Huffington Post* columnist reports.

The country's two largest private prison operators released their annual financial reports that showed hundreds of millions in profits last year, wrote Donald Cohen, executive director of *In the Public Interest*.

"If our criminal justice system stopped sending people to private jails and prisons, hundreds of millions in tax dollars a year could be spent on providing rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration," Cohen wrote.

He also notes that mental health issues account for a major portion of the mass incarceration problem. "Where our addiction to incarceration really stands out is the decades-long nationwide trend of dwindling mental health treatment," he said.

"Between 25 and 40 percent of all mentally ill Americans will be jailed or incarcerated at some point in their lives," Cohen wrote. "Jails and prisons have become, de facto, our largest psychiatric hospitals."

At least 83 percent of mentally ill inmates at county jails do not have access to treatment, Cohen pointed out.

In 2015, 2.3 million people

were incarcerated. Both of the publicly traded private prisons, Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and GEO Group, collected \$361 million in profit last year. The breakdown: CCA made \$3,356 and GEO Group made \$2,135 in profit for every person they have incarcerated, the article reported.

"What if we spent those hundreds of millions in annual private prison profits on helping turn these trends around?" Cohen suggested.

Already, California has a re-entry program providing employment assistance and substance abuse therapy that has a low recidivism track record at an annual cost of \$1,200 per person, Cohen stated.

Moreover, a re-entry program for mentally ill parolees in Washington State cost \$10,000 per person. However, for every \$1 spent, taxpayers have saved \$1.82 from incarceration cost, the story reported.

Another Washington State program called Trades Related Apprenticeship Coaching (TRAC program) offers prisoners a vocational trade in construction. The program's success at a women's prison has reduced the incarceration rate and has maximized employment opportunities for parolees.

"The solutions exist; communities just need the resources," Cohen said. "That's profit—taxpayer money that could be going to fixing our criminal justice system."

# Calif. \$15.6 Billion Budget for Criminal Justice Programs

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown's 2016-17 budget proposes a total of \$15.6 billion for judicial and criminal justice programs—an increase of \$582 million, or 3.9 percent, over the estimated expenditures for year 2015-16.

A report from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) summarizes Brown's proposed expenditures and makes recommendations to the Legislature about whether to approve, modify or reject them.

According to the report, "The primary goal of California's criminal justice system is to provide public safety by deterring and preventing crime, punishing individuals who commit crime, and reintegrating criminals back into the community."

Brown's budget proposes increased funding for the state's three major criminal justice programs: \$145 million (1.4 percent) for the CDCR, \$175 million (5.1 percent) for the court system, and \$22 million (2.7 percent) for the Department of Justice.

In addition, Brown's proposal includes a one-time funding of \$250 million from the General Fund for county jail construction under the 2011 Realignment.

The LAO makes the following recommendations regarding Brown's criminal justice budget:

## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

- Brown requests an extension of authority (SB 105, 2013) to procure contract beds, and his budget includes \$259 million to maintain about 9,000 contract beds. The LAO recommends approval of the extension of authority and funding, but directs the CDCR to close the California Rehabilitation Center.

- Brown's budget proposes a one-time funding of \$7.9 million for a one-year extension of the drug interdiction pilot program. The LAO recommends approval of \$750,000 for random drug testing and rejection of the remainder of the proposal.

- Brown's budget proposes \$5.8 million for additional staff in the Investigative Services Unit. The LAO recommends rejection of the proposal.

- Brown's budget proposes \$3.3 million to expand the Alternative Custody Program and \$390,000 to augment the Enhanced Alternative Custody Program. The LAO recommends withholding action on the proposal until the budget hearing.

- Brown's budget proposes a \$10.5 million augmentation to expand the rehabilitative programs and establish programs for long-term offenders. The LAO recommends approval of \$4 million to extend programs to high-risk offenders, and rejection of the remainder of the proposal.

- Brown's budget proposes \$32 million to support and expand the Male Community Re-entry Program. The LAO recommends rejection of the proposal and directs CDCR to resubmit a proposal to target high-risk offenders.

- Brown's budget proposes a \$6 million augmentation

and 33 additional positions for health care executive management teams at eight prisons. The LAO recommends rejection of the proposal.

- Brown's budget proposes \$246.4 million for inmate pharmaceuticals. The LAO recommends approval of the proposal.
- Brown's budget proposes \$524,000 to increase maintenance staff at Ironwood State Prison. The LAO recommends reducing the request by \$275,000.

## JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Brown's budget proposes additional funding of \$72 million to support the workload increases to the judicial branch and a \$20 million augmentation for trial court operations. The LAO recommends rejection of the proposal.

- Brown's budget proposes a one-time funding of \$30 million to create a new Court Innovations Grant Program. The LAO recommends withholding action pending additional information.

- Brown's budget includes court construction proposals totaling \$305 million. The LAO recommends withholding action until there is a budget hearing.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Brown's budget proposes a \$7.8 million augmentation from federal and state funds to support 35 additional positions to eliminate a backlog in fraud and elder abuse enforcement. The LAO recommends approval of funding on a one-time basis to address the backlog.

- Brown's budget proposes a \$1.4 million augmentation and seven additional positions to speed up prosecution under consumer protection laws. The LAO recommends rejection of the proposal.

## REALIGNMENT

- The LAO recommends rejection of that and the governor's office submits revised budget proposals in May each year.

## Court Allow Brown's Initiative on Next General Election Ballot

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

The California Supreme Court ruled, on June 6, that Gov. Jerry Brown may present his prison reduction initiative to California voters this November.

The high court reviewed whether the governor's 11th hour amendment to the initiative dramatically changed the original initiative to the point that proponents should be required to re-file it.

The California District Attorneys Association opposed the initiative.

The legal standard the court used in making its determination was the "reasonably germane" standard.

During oral arguments, several of the justices were skeptical of the prosecutor's argument that the governor's amendment didn't meet that standard, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported.

The justices indicated that the revised measure appeared "reasonably germane" to the original initiative, as required by law. Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye said the "reasonably germane" is "pretty broad."

"It is hard to imagine an amendment to a proposal that would not be reasonably germane," she said.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Associate justice Carol A. Corrigan agreed: "It seems pretty clear to me that the Legislature wanted to give great latitude to the proponents of any initiative."

Not all the justices favored the initiative. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Justice Ming W. Chin agreed with opposing counsel that Brown's amendment was a major contrast to the original initiative, that the original measure was an amendment to a statute,

and the new version calls for a constitutional amendment.

"That seems to me to be a major difference," Chin said. "And to eliminate the public comment period when you are suggesting a constitutional amendment seems to me to be wrong."

Brown has made the initiative his number one priority for the year, partly because he blames himself for creating the problem through his support for determinate sentences, reported the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Brown says the measure is a partial return to indeterminate sentences in which prisoners were given broad sentences like five years to life and had to show a parole board they were rehabilitated and had a plan for release.

Brown has called for criminal sentencing reform for more than a decade after becoming a critic of the state's determinate sentencing practices. Fixed prison terms, which Brown helped create, was considered a reform 40 years ago.

Brown's initiative: "The Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016" would roll back parts of Proposition 21, the ballot measure voters approved in 2000 that gave prosecutors the right to try minors as adults. It also would give inmates with nonviolent offenses the chance to seek parole after serving time on their primary, most serious offense.

That would mean that inmates whose sentences were lengthened because of secondary offenses or enhancements—tougher penalties due to drug, gang or weapons violations—might not have to serve the extra time. It also gives credits to inmates for their participation in vocational and educational programs.



File photo

Gov. Jerry Brown

## Overcrowding in County Jails Changes Bail Practices

By Wayne Boatwright  
Journalism Guild Writer

Overcrowding in county jails has California reviewing its bail practices.

California's bail practices have clogged the jails and become a tool that preemptively punishes the poor. Many individuals who pose no threat to society are jailed while awaiting trial.

Realignment shifted many state prisoners to county jails.

Like a flood moving downstream, this prison to county jail overcrowding has become an urgent issue according to the editorial board of *The Sacramento Bee*.

Does bail "...really serve its purpose of keeping people safe? Because if you're wealthy and you commit a heinous crime, you can make bail," said the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, Tani Cantil-Sakauye to the editorial board.

The next phase of criminal justice reform may be the courts. California's court system promises a fair and speedy

trail but only seems to offer a choice between jail or accepting a plea deal for the poor awaiting trial. The median bail for California is \$50,000 – about five times that of most other states.

What was once a tool to compel the accused to appear in court has become a trap ensnaring only the poor. "We have to take a look at whether we are contributing to the problem," Cantil-Sakauye said.

Sixty-two percent of the people in county jails are awaiting trial, estimates The Public Policy Institute of California. This stunning statistic had gone unnoticed until jail capacity became stretched by the influx of prisoners resulting from realignment. Further, realignment has lifted the one-year cap on jail terms so that beleaguered county jails now have some inmates serving sentences of five or more years.

Inspired by Arizona's and Kentucky's reform of their pre-trial court systems so that bail is rarely used, California is participating in a multistate taskforce to identify alternatives to

bail or jail. Sponsored by the Conference of Chief Justices, this taskforce seeks to develop best practices for supervised release programs as an alternative to bail. The recommended reforms may be implemented in numerous states, including California.

While a powerful California bail bond industry challenges the dismantling of the bail system, the federal government may require California to implement alternatives to bail such as those being considered by the taskforce. The U.S. Department of Justice warned in March that "any bail practices that result in incarceration based on poverty violate the 14th Amendment" in response to numerous suits challenging bail practices.

The editorial board of *The Sacramento Bee* contends that in the current environment of criminal justice reform, the indignity of being poor should not include a bleak choice between pre-trial jail, accepting a one-sided plea deal or being buried under bail debt.

# The Affects of PTSD on Juvenile Inmates *Part 2*

*This is the second installment of a two-part series detailing the impact of trauma on incarcerated men's likelihood of success at the parole board.*

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

I had been at a maximum-security prison for only three weeks when I saw a stabbing for the first time.

I was in my cell when I heard an alarm sounding. I looked out my window and saw two guys wrestling on the ground, stabbing each other; blood was everywhere.

## Kid CAT Speaks!

I remember my cellmate nonchalantly going to the door, taking a peek and saying, "Oh there's a stabbing," and going back to his bunk. He sat down, eating cereal and watching "Tom and Jerry." The stabbing continued, just outside our cell.

I couldn't take my eyes off the scene. I remember forcing myself to watch and trying to stop shaking so that my cellmate would not notice that I was afraid. In my head, I repeated,

"Get used to it. This is where you live now." I knew expressing emotions in prison may be perceived as a weakness — and weaknesses are opportunities for exploitation.

For the first seven years of my incarceration, life seemed to have no value. On a Level IV yard, stabbings are a blood sport that breaks the tedium of being locked in a cell 23 hours a day.

I have come to believe the daily violence sears itself into the collective memories of incarcerated people.

recreation hours.... I watched as the perpetrator...walk(ed) away as if nothing had happened."

"Symptoms of trauma are most severe in prisoners incarcerated for longer than one year who have little access to education, vocational training, or rehabilitation," according to Terrance Gorski, author of *Post Incarceration Syndrome and Relapse*.

These symptoms can lead to parole denied by the board.

Reasons cited for denial include lack of insight, lack of remorse, and/or poor institutional behavior, all of which can stem from trauma. These denials can be devastating, as they may last for periods from three to 15 years. Without good program support, many inmates find the task of preparing for the board to be nearly impossible.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health care and therapeutic techniques can help people who have experienced trauma. However, two problems arise in the context of the prison system. First, there is often a stigma associated with seeking help through mental health services. Nothing said between an inmate and the psychologist is protected by the psychotherapist-patient privilege enjoyed by ordinary citizens.

"The one time I did go to mental health to seek help for quitting cigarettes, it was recorded into my prison file, which was used against me in the parole board," said one man incarcerated at San Quentin who wished to remain anonymous. "I was told that it...divided my loyalties (and) that I am still supporting criminal enterprises."

The second challenge is

that mental health care cannot change the environment which causes mental health issues to begin with (is limited by one's environment. It cannot change someone's material circumstances.)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Make self-help programs commonplace in prisons everywhere.

"Today, there are numerous places where I can get the help I need," said Donte Smith, 35, who has been incarcerated for 19 years. "I finally began to understand what my victims went through, and Restorative Justice (a group) helped me with that."

2. Increase availability of services to treat long-term exposure to violence or victimization. Trauma-related mental health issues faced by the incarcerated (effects of being a victim or witness of violence.)

"The psychological damage resulting from seeing violence every day stayed with me for decades," said Robert Spears, who has been incarcerated since 1977. "I was living in fear."

3. Increase awareness among incarcerated people, prison administrators, and parole board about (mental health and the influence of trauma on incarcerated people.)

"I used to think seeking help...made me a lesser person, that other inmates would see me as a person who was insane, that didn't have it together," said Falao Toalepai, 52, serving 25 years to life for first-degree murder. "Truth was, after experiencing all the trauma for so long, I was going insane. Today, I'm better because I have sought help."

## Dear Kid CAT

Hello, my name is William Jones. I'm a 49-year-old lifer doing seven to life plus three years for attempted murder in 1988. I'm writing in regards to my quest to help our youth at risk and give my voice to that cause.

I'm currently at Centinela State Prison and a facilitator for a program called Prison Letters for Our Struggling Youth. We write letters to youth organizations in an attempt to prevent them [the youth] from joining gangs, doing drugs, etc. I'm writing because I'd like to do more in an attempt to help our kids at risk!

My goal is to start my own nonprofit organization to help our youth at risk obtain college scholarships and aid while attending school. In the meantime I [want] to help so please sign me up! I'm on board.

### Kid CAT Response:

Mr. Jones, thank you and the men at Centinela State Prison for the work being done through Prison Letters for Our Struggling Youth. Certainly there is a way to help.

One way you and any other of the incarcerated men and women can help is by writing and sharing your experiences. We all have a unique understanding of where destructive behaviors and actions lead. We have wisdom regarding what it takes to turn our lives around despite serving sentences as long as life in prison. We also have the motivation to make amends. Never underestimate the power of your story; it has the capacity to be the difference in someone's life.

Kid CAT has several projects; one is a monthly writing workshop. "The Beat Within" facilitates writing workshops in juvenile halls throughout California and in other states. They publish youth artwork, poetry and stories as well as accept submissions for their "Beat Without" column from those in prison and the public. They can benefit from hearing your stories.

When space permits, Kid CAT Speaks will publish writing prompts from each month's workshops. We include a selection from the month of April.

Kid CAT appreciates your letter and efforts.

Prison Letters for Our Struggling Youth and any of our readers may respond to the prompt. Your responses should be mailed to:

The Beat Within  
P.O. Box 34310  
San Francisco, CA 94134

Breakdown of the Month/What is the real? The media glamorizes prison as an adventure and portrays it as a place you can go to and get out of, no matter what you do on the inside. In music and movies, individuals go to prison for serious crimes. While inside, they commit more violence and crimes. They get away with it or get caught, do some time in the hole, and then get out of prison. This is depicted as real life. Many youths believe the prison experience comes at no cost to them or to society. How long have you been down? What age were you when you came to prison? When you came into prison did you see prison in the same way? Why did you believe the hype? What are the "true" struggles and realities of serving time in prison? What is it like to spend years and perhaps much of your life in prison? Is it like in music and movies? What is the reality? Break it down to us.

-Writing prompt by Miguel Quezada

*"The experience of being locked in a cage has a psychological effect upon everyone made to endure it."*

Mika'il DeVeaux, executive director of Citizens Against Recidivism, who served 32 years of a life sentence in New York, wrote in *The Trauma of the Incarceration Experience*: "The experience of being locked in a cage has a psychological effect upon everyone made to endure it. No one leaves unscarred. I remain haunted by the memories and images of violence.... I can still see the murders I witnessed. I still see the image of a person being hit at the base of his skull with a baseball bat on a warm sunny afternoon during

## New Senate Bills to Help Juvenile Youth Offenders

By Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer

This year juvenile and criminal justice advocates renewed their focus on California legislation that will introduce more evidenced-based policies into criminal justice. According to the Center for Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJJC), these evidence-based policies are designed to decrease incarceration and increase rehabilitation.

This month Kid CAT Speaks highlights two senate bills: (SB) 1157 and (SB) 1031. These bills not only aim to decrease incarceration, they better equip our youth to resist the pressures of intergenerational incarceration.

Senator Holly Mitchell introduced SB 1157, which would reverse the trend of substituting video visitation for in-person

visits at county jails.

In a report by the CJJC Deputy Director Dinky Manek Enty explained the importance of in-person visits to America's youth. "[F]or the more than 2.7 million children in the U.S. with an incarcerated parent, the value of hugging and kissing their parent is immeasurable. The impact of a positive family relationship on a child's healthy development can't be quantified. We have a great responsibility to ensure children have the opportunity to feel their parent, to support a child's rapidly developing sense of self."

Research supports Enty's claim as well as the role in-person visits can play in strengthening family connections, which in turn can help incarcerated people reintegrate back in society more smoothly and

recidivate less. (According to a report by the Criminal Justice Policy Review, visitation significantly decreases the risk of recidivism.) Findings suggest that "revising prison visitation policies to make them more 'visitor friendly' could yield public safety benefits by helping offenders establish a continuum of social support from prison to the community."

Senator Loni Hancock introduced SB 1031. According to CJJC, SB 1031 would establish the Juvenile Justice Information System, a database for information about processes and outcomes in juvenile justice. This system could facilitate information-sharing between counties (which currently does not happen), clearer research about juvenile justice, and evidenced-based solutions to the problems facing youth.

**Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men who committed their crimes under the age of 23 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 all juvenile lifers, educators, and policymakers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation. Contact us at San Quentin News, Attn: Kid CAT Speaks, 1 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94964**

# Restorative Justice Symposium Tackles Sex Trafficking

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Speakers Marya Edgar and Billy “Faheem” Fuller gave accounts that put faces to the victims of sex trafficking at the Restorative Justice (RJ) Symposium held inside of San Quentin State Prison.

“Thank you for taking on tough subjects like transgenders and this subject that is so painful for many of you,” said RJ sponsor and Berkeley Professor Mary Elliot. “We did it in here because there is enough love to hold it.”

Edgar stood before guests and incarcerated men inside the Catholic Chapel and spoke about breaking the abuse and mental slavery that entrapped her in prostitution.

Edgar says her biological father held a gun to her mother’s belly and threatened to abort her. After the abusive man went to prison, Edgar’s mother married someone else, an older man that beaten her with a belt.

“I became accustomed to being beaten by somebody who loves me,” said Edgar.

At 16, Edgar met a man

through a female prostitute that needed to bring in a new girl in order to escape the life.

“I saw a handsome older man; he saw an opportunity,” said Edgar.

He led Edgar to believe she was his girlfriend in order to get the 16-year-old to prostitute. Whenever she tried to leave, her pimp threatened to tell her family, hurt her family or attack her.

“One time he told me to leave, and I tried to do so, but he beat me with a belt,” said Edgar. “I thought I was in a domestic violence relationship.”

Edgar says that people shouldn’t gauge whether a prostitute is giving them consensual sex by how they act.

“If you meet a hooker, she’s happy, cheerful, excited,” said Edgar. “Maybe a John won’t realize she has been forced.”

Edgar never stopped going to school. When the police arrested her pimp for robbery, Edgar says she started to break away. The break became complete when she heard a fellow female student was killed by her husband and realized that could have been her.

Today Edgar is an engaged, 25-year-old social worker and a mother with a master’s degree who gives the glory to God for her survival.

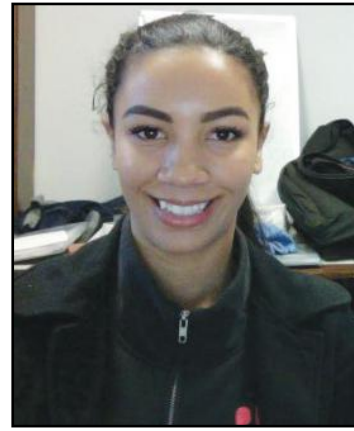
“Now I’m able to assist as a survivor advocate,” said Edgar. “Sharing my story and leaving little nuggets help me heal.”

Edgar is also part of the Sex Trafficking Exploitation Prevention (STEP) program started by Louis Scott, who is serving over 200 years for pimping and pandering.

Scott grew up in a household where pimping was socially acceptable. His mother was a prostitute and his father a pimp.

“RJ teaches us crime impact,” said Scott. “I don’t know the full harm I’ve caused. Not everybody is as strong as Ms. Edgar was. I’m doing everything in my power to stop this. When you hear guys talking about pimping this and that, now you have a face.”

Scott, who hosted the May 7 symposium, has created a pamphlet with information on where to get help. They’re placed in Planned Parenthood locations, where prostitutes go to get free



Courtesy of SQPR

Marya Edgar

condoms.

Fuller spoke from the byproduct of sex trafficking perspective. His mother was a 13-year-old prostitute who left him with his grandmother.

“At 10 grandma died, and I had to go live with my mother, a heroin addict living in a whore house,” said Fuller.

Fuller’s mother beat him when he cried for being hungry. When he learned that he had a 3-year-old sister, he realized that it was his job to keep her from being beaten for being hungry. One time he says he stole potato chips from one of the prostitutes but didn’t mind being beaten because his sister didn’t go to bed hungry.

“When my mother went to jail, the ladies in the house started doing things to me,” said Fuller. “At 10, I had this idea that if I didn’t take it, they would do it to my little sister. It destroyed me as a kid. I’m 56-years-old now. I’ve been in prison for 38 years. I think the only reason I’m alive today is because my little sister needed me.”

Fuller grew to hate adults and vowed to kill one when he grew up.

“At 17, I killed a man who did nothing to me except be an adult,” said Fuller. “I am extremely sorry. My past doesn’t justify the things that I have done.”

The time came when Fuller had to forgive his mother in order to heal. That moment came when his mother was on her deathbed.

“Everything I went through was all about forgiveness,” said Fuller.

Music enhanced the symposium. Antwan “Banks” Williams and Jessie James Smith

rapped out against sex trafficking.

“At 12 they all called her fast, because nobody knew about her past...” Smith rapped on “Cry.”

Doing a solo, Gino Sevacos sang, “She wants to run, she wants to fly away, forced to have sex at a young age...”

Sevacos was inspired to write the song after the One Million Rising organization brought in sex trafficking survivors, and he heard their stories.

“The music was amazing. It was powerful,” said Edgar.

The use of restorative justice is spreading. It is offered in Solano State Prison to men who have completed Mary Jo Bauen’s Parenting Program.

RJ is also used in Florida and the Bay Area instead of jail for crimes involving victims, including robbery, burglary and sexual assault, according to Sia Henry of Impact Justice’s Restorative Justice Project.

“Police, Probation or District Attorneys can send a case to our organization prior to being charged,” said Henry. “We meet with the young person, victim’s family and their supporters in a conference. Everyone comes up with a plan to make everything right for the victim, their family, the community and themselves. They have six months to complete the plan or the case gets sent back to the referring agency.”

Henry says Alameda has the longest running program and their recidivism rate is 11.8 percent; the average recidivism rate for the state is 54.3 percent within three years according to a 2014 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Outcome Evaluation Report. Henry hopes to see neighborhoods use restorative justice instead of calling the police because draconian sentences don’t make sense.

“I don’t think the people who are making the decisions in California are inherently evil, necessarily,” said Kelsey Quigley, a Berkeley Law student. “They just have no clue. I think before you pass a law implicating prisoners you should have to go to a Restorative Justice circle or at least meet a prisoner. I met the men here. They changed my perspective - on the law, on life, on everything.”

## Pope Francis Responds to Juvenile’s Request for Forgiveness

By **Salvador Solorio**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Pope Francis recently replied to a letter from a juvenile in the Los Angeles County Jail.

“Know that the Holy Father is thinking of you and praying for you,” the Pope wrote to Carlos Adrian Vazquez Jr., convicted of voluntary manslaughter at age 16.

In his letter Vazquez said that he was asking for forgiveness for what he did from the leader of the Roman Catholic Church. Vazquez said he couldn’t believe it. “I didn’t think the Pope would write to someone who’s behind bars,” he told CNN.

The Pope’s letter spoke of “A Holy Door to Mercy” being opened at the juvenile jail, in a ceremony led by the Los Angeles archbishop.

“I pray that as you and your fellow residents celebrate the opening of the Holy Door, you may receive these gifts and be



File photo

Pope Francis waving

filled with peace and hope.... And please remember to pray for me, because I greatly need your prayers,” the Pope wrote.

CNN noted that the exchange of letters is the latest example of the Pope’s new mission of mercy. He has been reaching out to juvenile and adult inmates as part of his Jubilee of Mercy this year. During his visit to Mexico he visited prisoners, and in 2013

he washed the feet of incarcerated people, including women.

The Pope’s letter affected Vazquez deeply. “It gave me a lot of hope, knowing that there are people like the Pope who still have not given up on us,” said Vazquez. “I know I’ve made mistakes and have hurt people, but what I learned in my two years and five months I’ve been imprisoned, I didn’t know I was hurting people and that I was hurting myself, too.”

Vazquez, now 18 years old, expressed regret for his crime in a letter to the victim’s family. “No words would ever give them back the life I destroyed,” he said.

Vazquez has learned many lessons and now has strength to continue paying his debt to society. “If society does not forgive me, I know God forgives me for my sins. The way I thought was to fight every month. Now I use my words instead of my hands,” he said.

## “Brown Proclaims ‘Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day’”

By **Wesley Eisiminger**  
Staff Writer

After the end of the Vietnam War, veterans of that war have finally received a welcome home. Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. has proclaimed March 30 “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day,” according to the *Zephyr*, a veterans publication.

Nearly three and a half million Americans served in the United States military during the Vietnam War and related conflicts in Southeast Asia between 1959 and 1975.

About 58,000 U.S. service members died in the Vietnam War, —more than 5,800 were Californians— and many also suffered physical injuries, said

the *Zephyr*.

At San Quentin, in response to this long overdue declaration, one Vietnam vet who served in 1965, 1966 and part of 1967 said he came home to protesters and a Veterans of Foreign Wars claimed “Nobody declared war in Vietnam! You weren’t in a war!” and denied him. James “Shorty” Dunbar said that the protesters and VFW both made him feel like an “invisible vet.” “It left me wondering what it was all for.” Gov. Brown’s declaration makes him feel visible again.

C. B. Anderson, another vet at San Quentin, who didn’t serve in Vietnam but served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the 1980s, was unhappy about

the welcome the Vietnam vets received after the war. “Every time I saw a service member in uniform and I would see the Vietnam Service ribbon I would walk up to them, shake their hand, and thank them for their service in the Vietnam War.”

Gary Cooper, a Vietnam vet who was there in 1966 and came back in 1968, said about Gov. Brown’s proclamation, “I was never thanked for my service there....It’s nice to finally get the recognition that I

believe we were due years ago. We were just doing what our country asked us to do without complaints.”

According to *Zephyr*, besides physical wounds, many Vietnam veterans suffered invisible wounds of war, including post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions. Decades later they are being diagnosed with disease and disorders associated with their exposure to Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides.

“In addition to those with

medical conditions that are direct results of their service, there are many who suffer from unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and substance abuse,” said *Zephyr*.

“Treatment of our veterans reflects profoundly on us as a nation and state,” according to Gov. Brown’s proclamation. “The state is committed to improving current services and implementing new programs for those who served and their families.”

“Our Vietnam War veterans earned our everlasting gratitude,” the governor continued. “I urge all Californians to join us in welcoming home our veterans and assisting them in every way possible.”

One person who helped get the country to recognize the needs of Vietnam vets is Jose Ramos, founder of the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day campaign to heal some of the nation’s historic wounds and honor Vietnam veterans for their service.



# Naturally Talented Artist Began While Incarcerated

By Wesley Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

Bruce Fowler turns his natural talent in drawing and painting into magnificent works of art.

Fowler said he started drawing 16 years ago doing pencil drawings of seascapes when he was in a county jail. He never went to any class on drawing or paintings.

"When I came to San Quentin from Ironwood, I started doing painting when a friend invited me to the Arts-in-Corrections class." That is where his talent really came out and his work was shown at the recent TEDx event and in the March edition of the *San Quentin News*.

Fowler said he has done three types of paintings at San Quentin. The first is Realism, depicting people and things as close as they really appear to be.

The second is Surrealism, a modern movement in art and



Photo by Ralpheale Casale

One of three diorama paintings of a jester in-a-box by Fowler

literature in which an attempt is made to portray or interpret the working of the unconscious mind as manifested in dreams.

The third is Diorama, where a scene is built and painted as three-dimensional. Diorama paintings include Surrealism.

Fowler explained it takes about 150 hours or longer to complete a Diorama painting. The one pictured with this story was done in a year. Realism paintings take about 40 hours to complete.

A lot of his work has been donated to Kid CAT, the Veterans Group of San Quentin and other groups. One painting went to Toys for Tots and is displayed in the visiting room. About 30 works have been done for San Quentin.

He expressed his appreciation to the staff at William James Association. "Without their generous help, I would not be able to paint at all," said Fowler.

## Marin Shakespeare Program Expands to CSP-Solano

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

In the gymnasium of California State Prison-Solano, inmates donned costumes and recited lines of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in April.

The presentation was produced by Lesley Currier, managing director of Marin Shakespeare Company, a company that also arranges productions of Shakespeare at San Quentin prison once or twice a year.

The level II inmates rehearsed for more than six months, ironing out all the bugs that usually surface during plays. They were allowed to wear costumes while performing this play, which

brought to the production the same kind of magic that theatrical plays can bring.

"Experiencing Shakespeare as a participant in a production has helped inmates release themselves from the cold and callous stigma that prison dons on its residents," said inmate Cotton Jones.



Courtesy of CDCR

CSP-Solano's Shakespeare's cast and company



Courtesy of CDCR

Performance of the play in Solano's Gym

"We put on a façade 24/7 here. We still have the façade on that we have to be tough," Jones added. "Shakespeare allows us to peel away at that."

"But it can often take years before inmates are less worried about their image," Jones said. Shane Goddard, who suffers from a fear of public speaking and is serving a 25-to-life sentence for first-degree murder, felt that Shakespeare brings a transformative experience for the inmates.

"To see guys I've known for 20 years come out of their com-

fort zone makes me want to participate," Goddard said.

Part of the thrill, according to Jones, is the audience, which consists of visitors who came into the prison to see the show.

"We feel forgotten," Jones said. "When we see people from the outside, it's energizing."

Ronin Holmes, who says he has read every Shakespeare book available, played a leading role. Holmes had participated in a Shakespeare project at San Quentin, before he was transferred to Solano.

Productions have been

ongoing since 2003, when Currier first brought her prison transformation project to San Quentin. Currier was in part inspired by Director Curt Tofteland, who introduced Shakespeare to people incarcerated in Luther Luckett Correctional Complex in Kentucky.

Currier said she owes the success of the program in part to the production's ability to foster a therapeutic community, as many of these guys, who she said had truncated childhoods, are able to bond with each other.

## Donovan Inmates Write Shakespeare Play for San Diego University

Students at San Diego State University performed a play, "I'M GOOD," written by inmates at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD).

"In my career, this is some of the best writing I've been involved with," said James Pillar, a teaching artist with the Playwrights Project, reported *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Experience in theater isn't new to California prisons. Inmate actors in both Solano and San Quentin perform plays on prison stages.

"I'M GOOD" is an acronym for Incarcerated Men Getting Over Obstacles Daily. The play offers a look at the lives of four incarcerated men, each with unique sets of problems and situations. The 90-minute play illuminates the experiences that led to their incarceration.

Inmate playwright Mickey Trotter, 38, said, "It made me understand the true meaning of teamwork."

Playwright's Project, a non-profit organization, helped the men prepare the play. The

organization was founded in 1985 and has worked with various groups including juvenile court, San Diego Youth and Community Services and community school districts.

The Playwrights Project executive director Cecelia Kouma was inspired to work with inmates by a prisoner she met in Leavenworth federal prison. Sometime in 2014 she contacted RJD officials and successfully launched the program.

According to the *Union-Tribune* article, when Kouma

recalled her meeting with the inmates at RJD, she said, "We sat around the table to talk. We asked, 'What is it you want to say?' They said, 'We want people to know who we are, what got us here, and we're not monsters.'"

One thing RJD attempts to do is create positive impact programs for inmates. The Playwrights Project is a program that seemed to have a positive effect, RJD spokesman Lt. Philip Bracamonte told *Union-Tribune*.

Bracamonte also said that

the warden suggested the program for level-four prisoners, who are in the highest security classification in the state, because he believes it could do the most good with those inmates. Prisoners at that level don't have as many programs as other inmates.

San Diego State University presented "I'M GOOD" in its Experimental Theater from April 20 to 23. Student actors read the script, but the play wasn't fully staged, according to Warth.

—Harry C. Goodall Jr.

# GRIP Graduates Celebrate With Families & Friends

Continued from Page 1

That's a total of 2098 years of incarceration culminating in this graduation.

Graduate and speaker Ferrari Moody captured the men transitions.

"We were dedicated to change," said Moody. "We made ourselves transparent, open and honest about the thing we suppressed. GRIP helped us to unlock the past and afforded us the tools to promote peace and personal evolution."

Samone Moody, his wife added, "I was excited to see him speak from his new self. He has learned to communicate better and let things go. That has helped our marriage; pride is not a priority any more. I am proud of him."

GRIP counselors Susan Shannon and Jesse Estrin shared about their experience with their tribe.

"I was concerned how the guys would respond to a female leading the group," said Shannon. "I deeply appreciate each one of these men; they are my heroes."

Estrin added, "It's hard to put



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

## GRIP tribe 715

in words a year worth of emotions and learning to be human again. I have learned more from these guys than I have from the outside."

Graduates Adnan Khan of 715 and Somsak Uppasay of 641 address the audience.

Somsak spoke on seeing a family member being killed at a young age.

"I had no answers for where this anger was coming from and how to deal with the emotional scars," said Somsak. "I had to embrace that seven year-old kid in me and to forgive."

Victim advocate, Christine Mason spoke about being on the other side of crime. She talked about her mother being killed and what it took to heal.

"No one is created a criminal in a vacuum," said Mason. "It's never just you; we need everybody to heal. Victims rights are: the right to heal—be restored and to bring back home healthy and safe people."

Mala beads bracelets were passed out by Mason to the men as a reminder for them to think before they react.

Fateen Jackson captivated the crowd with his spoken word called 'Apologetic Salute', apologizing to all victims who never received one and honoring the surviving victims.

San Quentin's choir and the "New Syndicate of Funk" band had the crowd singing along to 'People get Ready' by Curtis Mayfield.

Melissa Davis, of the Marin County Probation Department, received the Muhammad Ali Victory Robe Award, for her great work teaching the domestic violence class.

"I'm thankful to be a part of this community and tribe," said Davis. "We've shared and learned from each other; I will take that to the outside community."

Eleven men completed the

domestic violence training to become certified facilitators.

Jesus Garcia witness brother Arnulfo Garcia receive his hard earned certificate.

"I'm proud of him; he has come a long way," said J. Garcia.



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Uppasay shares his personal struggles to help change lives

"This is what prison is supposed to be about – rehabilitation."

George Luna, former prisoner and now employed as a GRIP Facilitator shared about his transition in society. He has made the honor roll in college.

"I went from one institution to another," said Luna. "You can become a success and give back to the community. I don't get mad I get motivated."

Richmond Councilmember, Gail McLaughlin spoke on how human tenderness helps connect with the bigger tribe in society.

"The tender side of myself is to advocate for more programs on the outside," she said.

The May 6 event bought tears through out the ceremony. The men walked confidently with smiles to receive their certificates.

They signed a pledge to commit to a life of non-violence; then filtered through a human arch, formed by guest and volunteers symbolizing a welcome back rite of passage.

"I murdered Tiffany Dawn Boyce," said Carlos Smith. "I dedicate this program to her. I learned to cultivate mindfulness and develop my emotional intelligence."

Dominic Smith added, "I'm proud of my father's spirituality and growth. He can still lead us, given this circumstance."

Pamela Sifuentes came for her brother Miguel Sifuentes.

"I feel great to celebrate the work he has done," she said. "This is the first time we came to prison for something good. The things he has learned has made our relationship stronger."

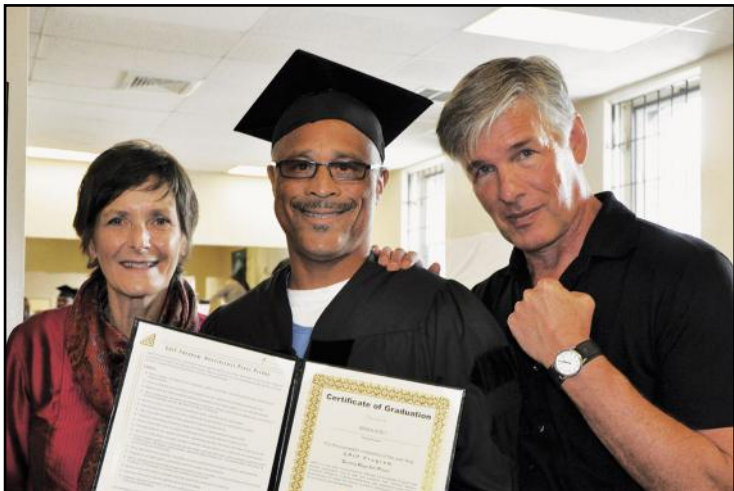


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Susan Shannon, Brian Asey and Jacques Verduin



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Jesse Estrin and Fateen Jackson



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Brent Surrell celebrates accomplishment with his family



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Marco Villa with his sister and niece



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Christine Mason shares her personal stories

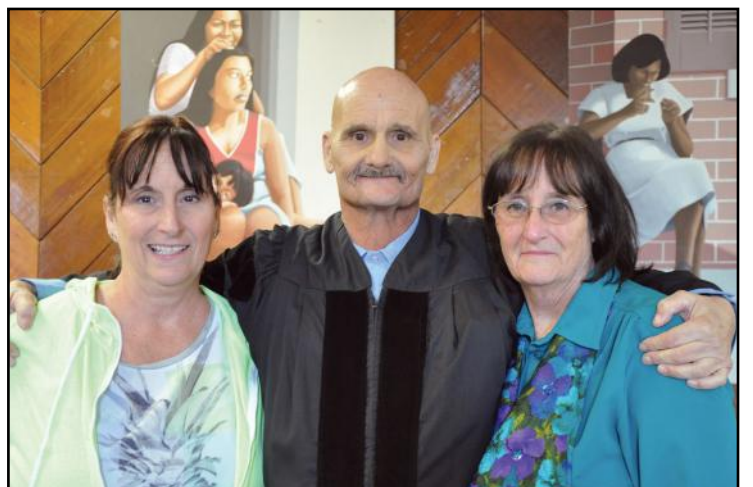


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Duane Holt with his loved ones

# 2016 Day of Peace Brings Music, Artistry and Unity

*Continued from Page 1*

“Since a lot of youngsters are being sent to San Quentin, the Day of Peace Committee recruited some of them to show prison isn’t all violence and drugs, like what’s on TV,” said committee member Chris Schumacher.

The prison’s Lower Yard was dotted with more than two dozen signup tables for the various programs.

As Prince’s Purple Rain filled the air so did a light rain. By noon, the rain was heavy, soaking the participants.

Some drenched participants began filing back into the cell blocks; however, more than a hundred remained on the yard, continuing the celebration. In the end, the musicians were forced to pack it in because of the rain.

Each year the event holds a sidewalk art contest sponsored by William James Association. Prior to the rain, the pavement in the Lower Yard was divided into 2’ X 2’ squares where 31 artists created imaginative chalk-drawings.

The judge is artist Patrick



Photo by Peter Merts

## The Day of Peace annual peace salute

Mahoney, a volunteer. He carefully observed each of the 31 entries, drawn with “peace” as its theme. Mahoney chose Ronell Draper’s piece drawn on square #43 as this year’s winner. In second place was Cook’s #27, and C.Y. Baker’s #29 was third. He gave an honorable mention

to Christopher Christensen’s #7. By the time the rain became a downpour, the judging was over; the chalk drawings slowly became more abstract and finally faded.

Prison artists Guss “Lumbumba” Edwards and Antwan “Banks” Williams, who worked

in a more permanent medium, displayed their oil paintings that represented various self-help groups.

“The painting for Project LA, Shields for Families, offers everything Joe Paul, its manager, wants to do, which is to help people be with their families,”

Williams said. “Shields for Families is what a man is supposed to be as a protector and backbone of the family.”

For the third year in a row, Natalie Tovar, customer service representative of Walkenhorst’s, donated more than 2,500 snack bags for inmates to enjoy while listening to Bread & Roses.

“Day of Peace is something we in the company would like to see in all prisons,” Tovar said. “When an inmate is doing good and rehabilitating, that affects the family. That’s what the company is about, family.”

“We take a whole year to organize the one-day event,” said Stephen Pascascio, Chairman of the Day of Peace Committee. “We get together every Friday in the chapel to discuss what we need – such as who is going to give prayers, the gift bags and bracelets, along with the art work for the programs and sidewalk art contest.”

“Thanks to the administration for letting us have this event,” Schumacher added. “It shows they’re behind us for peace.”



Photo by Peter Merts

## Day of Peace art collage of self-help groups and artists

### Several of the facilitators at the self-help tables were asked what peace means:

- GED Prep: “Education breaks down barriers across culture and language. The more we educate ourselves the more we can understand the world. When we understand the world we understand the importance of peace.”
- Kairos, Sheril Strook: “Everyone getting along and learning to walk with Christ and treating each other with respect.”
- Insight Prison Project, Karena Montag: “Integrity and wholeness.”
- Insight Prison Project, Billie Mizell: “All of our programs are rooted in empathy. I think empathy is a cornerstone of peace in an empathetic population.”
- Bread and Roses: “Day of Peace is an annual event to remind people to be open, vulnerable, connect, co-habitate, and listen to one another for us. Out there it’s the same: to learn how to live with one another. After a day in here, it’s important we take it out and share.”
- California Reentry Institute, Collette Carroll: “Peace of heart, making amends naturally for any harm or hurtful thing one has done.”
- Project Reach, Greg Jones: “Peace is to help others learn.”
- Insight Garden Project, Amanda Bergher: “Reconnection to nature, self, and community.”
- SQ Cares, Berklee Donavan: “Bringing people together under one cause that helps many people.”
- SQUIRES sponsor Romania Jaundoo: “Coming together for unity as a family finding peace between members, sponsors, youth, and families making sure they take it with them.”
- Hope for Lifers, Joey Hopkins: “Getting in touch with your own authentic self. A real man is a peaceful man.”
- ACT, Jarvis “Lady Jae” Clark: “Is living in your truth being able to walk in the journey of life and accepting a person as being human beings and loving one another as god loves us all.”
- ROOTS, Phoeun You: “It is finding or having inner calmness, compassion and forgiveness.”
- No More Tears, Maurice Reed: “Love, connection, reconciliation, enjoyment to be free and share a bond.”
- Alliance for Change: “Being able to create community collectively living in harmony with one another, where everyone is living in a community with human value and justice.”
- TRUST: “Inner peace equals a calm mood.”

**Other Participating Groups:**  
 Vietnam Veterans Group San Quentin, Veterans Healing Veterans, Native Hawaiians, ELITE, New Leaf on Life, Criminal and Gangs Anonymous, Shakespeare, Artistic Ensemble, The Work, Diabetics Program, Restorative Justice, Guiding Rage Into Power, Kid CAT, Free to Succeed, California Reentry Institute, SQ Prison Report, Financial Literacy, Richmond Project.



The Narrows at Zion National Park

Photo by P. Jo

### Snippets

Dust may actually help clean up your home. The dead skin cells we shed constantly end up in dust contains an oil, called squalene, that reduces indoor ozone levels as much as 15 percent, making the air safer to breathe.

Islam means "peace through the submission of God."

Diamonds can decrease in size. Australian physicists have found that applying UV rays to a diamond causes it to lose atoms, smoothing rough edges or creating small pits in the diamond surface.

Dungeons and Dragons was banned in 2004 at Waupun Correctional Institute in Wisconsin because it was thought inmates playing the game could lead to escape fantasies and gang activity.

Locusts can jump 2.3 feet, which is equivalent to a human jumping 60 feet.

Elvis was a black belt in karate. He picked it up during his tour of duty in Germany in the late 50s, and later studied in Memphis under a master sensei who was a former combat trainer for Korean intelligence.

## Sudoku Corner

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

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

### PERSPECTIVE

Today was the absolute worst day ever

And don't try to convince me that

There's something good in every day

Because, when you take a closer look,

This world is a pretty evil place.

Even if

Some goodness does shine through once in a while

Satisfaction and happiness don't last.

And it's not true that

It's all in the mind and heart

Because

True happiness can be obtained

Only if one's surroundings are good

It's not true that good exist

I'm sure you can agree that

The reality

Creates

My attitude

It's all beyond my control

And you'll never in a million years hear me say that

Today was a good day

Now read from the bottom.

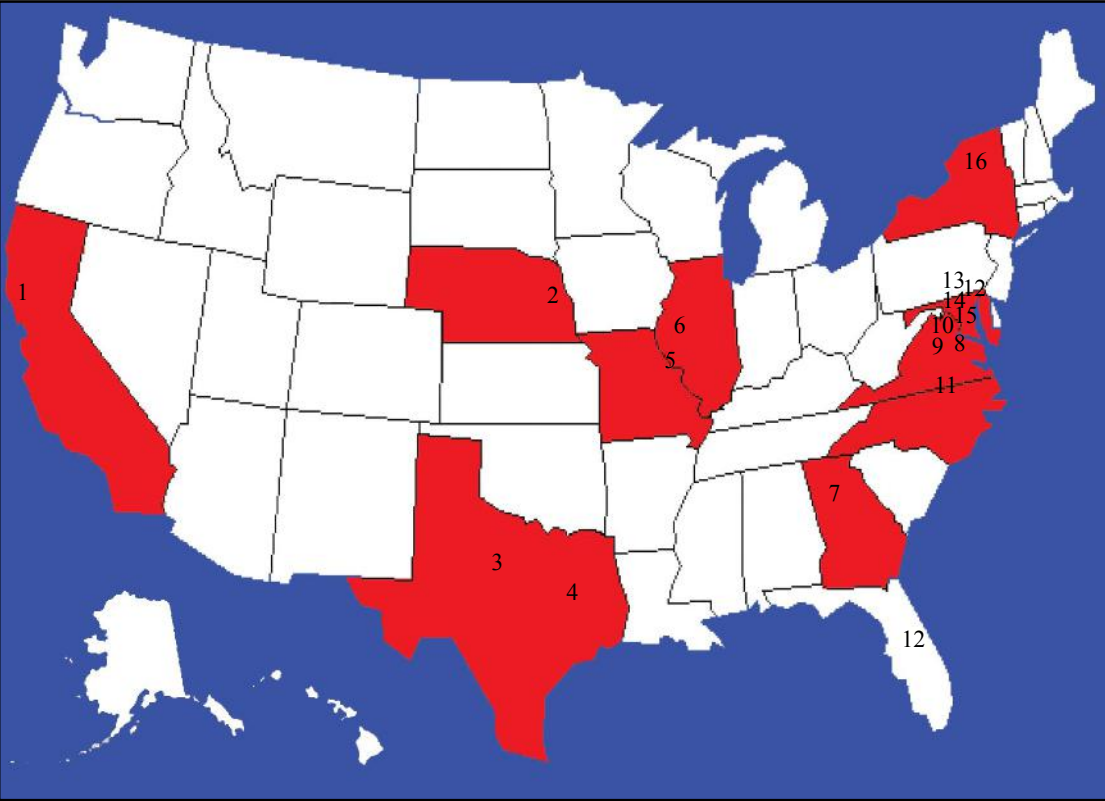
—Anonymous

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

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

# News Briefs



1. San Quentin – Bernard L. Hamilton, 64, a Death Row inmate, died of natural causes on March 28. Hamilton was sentenced to death on March 2, 1981, for a second-degree burglary and first-degree murder in 1979. There are 747 inmates on Death Row.
2. Lincoln, Neb. – The state’s corrections director asked India-based Harris Pharma LLP to repay \$26,700 for 1,000 vials of sodium thiopental not imported and delivered, *The Associated Press* reports. The firm refused to return payment, saying the state’s failure to import them wasn’t their fault.
3. Texas – Prison officials are implementing a new policy that would punish inmates for having a social media presence, even when someone on the outside is posting updates on their behalf, reports Electronic Frontier Foundation.
4. Huntsville, Texas – Coy Wayne Westbrook, 58, was executed March 9 for a 1997 murder. Pablo Lucio Vasquez, 38, was executed April 6 for a 1998 murder. Texas has carried out six executions this year.
5. St. Louis, Mo – Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon signed an executive order on April 11 removing questions about criminal history on initial applications for state jobs, even as a legislative effort to also “ban the box” in the private sector stalls, *The Associated Press* reports.
6. Springfield, Ill. – A bill is working its way through the state House limiting solitary confinement to no more than five consecutive days and five total days during a 150-day

period, *The Associated Press* reports. It would also allow inmates in solitary four hours per day outside of their cells.

7. Jackson, Ga – Kenneth Fults, 47, was executed April 13 for a 1996 murder. Fults was the fourth person executed this year in Georgia.
8. Richmond, Va. – Keith Allen Harward, 59, spent more than 30 years incarcerated for a rape and murder that DNA evidence proved him innocent of. The state attorney general has filed a brief with the state high court saying the conviction should be vacated.

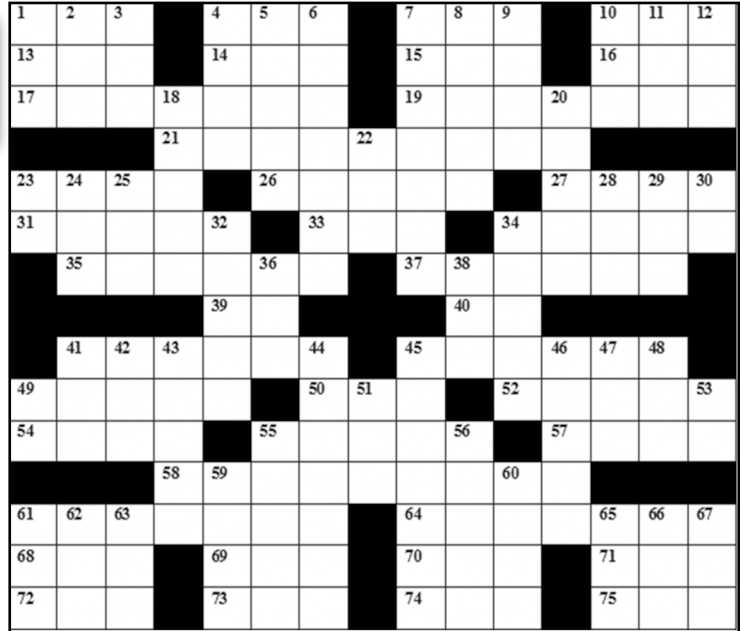
9. Virginia – Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe recommended keeping lethal injection as the state’s execution method by using a secretive process of allowing prison officials to obtain the drugs through unidentified pharmacies rather than depending on the electric chair as a fallback, *The Associated Press* reports.
10. Virginia – Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe ordered, on April 18, the restoration of voting rights to 206,000 people who have completed their entire sentence, including parole or probation.

11. Raleigh, NC – A federal appeals court ruled Nicholas Ragin was deprived of his constitutional right to an attorney because his trial lawyer, Nikita V. Mackey, slept through his trial, *The Associated Press* reports.
12. Maryland – Maryland became the 14th state to allow ex-felons to vote after they are released from prison but still under supervision. About 40,000 ex-felons are affected. An estimated 5.85 million Americans cannot vote due to state laws disenfranchising people with felony convictions. Kentucky,

Florida and Iowa have the strictest disenfranchisement laws, disqualifying ex-felons for life unless they are granted an individual pardon.

13. Maryland – The state’s General Assembly approved a bill that eliminates mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenders, increases penalties for some violent crimes and allows some nonviolent offenders to be released from prison earlier, *The Washington Post* reports. The bill also lowers the age for elderly parole, and limits the ability of judges to give long sentences for probation violations.
14. Washington, DC – Landlords who routinely ban tenants with prior arrests or criminal convictions are in violation of the Fair Housing Act, according to Helen R. Kanovsky, general counsel for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
15. Washington, DC – On March 7, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the 2002 murder conviction of Michael Wearry, a Louisiana death row inmate. The high court found that prosecutors did not disclose evidence helpful to his defense.
16. New York – Andre Hatchett, 49, has been freed from prison and his conviction overturned March 10 after spending about 25 years incarcerated. The only eyewitness to testify initially implicated someone else and had told police he’d smoked crack on the day of the murder. Hatchett cooperated with police and gave an alibi, according to his legal team, which included the Innocence Project.

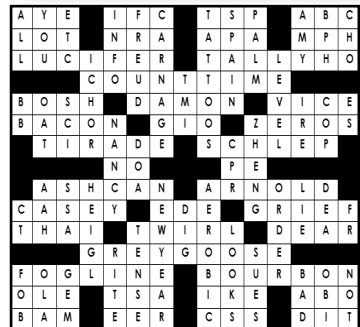
# WORDCROSS PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
1. Michael Strahan’s new TV show (Abbrev.)
  4. New Russian intelligence network (Abbrev.)
  7. Author Amy of “The Joy Luck Club”
  10. Acronym of Tiger’s association
  13. Closed handshake
  14. Travel wait term (Abbrev.)
  15. Highway \_\_\_ 66
  16. Cusack of “Castle”
  17. Carrie of “Person of Interest” and “Crowded”
  19. Custom of folkway of the Irish people
  21. Host of CNN’s “United Shades of America” W.
  23. Desert in Mongolia
  26. To happen as a consequence
  27. To draw on glass or metal with acid
  31. To begin
  33. This insect ruins picnics
  34. With speed, swiftly
  35. Song “Sweet Nothing” Calvin
  37. Religious celebration on a Sunday
  39. FM alternative
  40. Audi race car model
  41. Export/import tax
  45. Balkin country occupied by Germans in WWII
  49. Comedian Burnett
  50. Acronym for daily food values
  52. To surpass in achievement
  54. A type of cheese used for salads
  55. Thin and bony due to great age or hunger
  57. Amy Acker’s character on “Person of Interest”
  58. Confirmation of receiving items in prison (Prison Slang)
  61. Bag of products when you first arrived at a prison (Prison Slang)
  64. Iranian language related to Old Persian
  68. “Honest \_\_\_”
  69. (Suffix) forming feminine names or titles
  70. Abbrev. for Latin Legum Baccalaureus
  71. Acronym of group that supports American military families
  72. Acronym of synthetic drug similar to LSD
  73. Electrified fish
  74. Weep aloud
  75. Network of Terry Gross’ show “Fresh Air”
- DOWN**
1. Acronym of the value of a country’s annual output
  2. Spoil or disfigure
  3. A gibbon
  4. Cheese made by Greeks
  5. Medical term for mouth like opening (Suffix)
  6. Crazy or eccentric (Slang)
  7. Force payment through bribery
  8. What many prison yards lack (two words)
  9. Astronaut Armstrong
  10. Used to express disgust or disbelief
  11. Acronym for Axl Rose and Slash’s band
  12. Football movie “\_\_\_ Given Sunday”
  18. To run with a whirring sound
  20. The last thing we did last night
  22. Acronym for American branch military SEALs
  23. Lexus car model
  24. Asian classification in prison (Abbrev.)
  25. Sheep’s cry
  28. Country duo Maddie & \_\_\_
  29. Acronym of folk band with John Fogerty
  30. Cartoon character \_\_\_-Man
  32. Path for hiking or biking
  34. Cartoon dog from “The Jetsons”
  36. Acronym for the global bank
  38. Goddess personifying criminal folly
  41. “She so high” singer \_\_\_ Bachman
  42. Unit of land in the metric system
  43. Brandon of “Superman Returns”

44. Irregular line formed on infinite number of irregular sections
45. Beach footwear
46. Homer’s boss Mr.
47. OJ’s trial judge
48. Gone by
49. Truckers’ radio (Abbrev.)
51. Obviously
53. Result of even score basketball game (Abbrev.)
55. Slyness and cunning in dealing with others
56. “Talking Bodies” singer
59. Late Merle Haggard’s song “\_\_\_ From Muskokee”
60. English economist Beatrice Potter
61. Skinny jeans or parachute pants are types of

## LAST MONTH’S ANSWERS



62. Apple’s former competitor
63. Game, \_\_\_\_, Match
65. Large cask for beer or wine
66. C.O.’s weapon
67. And not, or not, and not either

# Aumenta Numero de Jovenes Latinos Hospitales Psiquiátricos

Por Larry Smith  
Gremio Periodístico

La hospitalización psiquiátrica de jóvenes latinos en California ha incrementado drásticamente con relación a los niños y jóvenes anglosajones y afro-americanos, de acuerdo a la información estatal. Expertos están en desacuerdo sobre la causa.

Entre los años 2007 y 2014 los latinos de 21 años y menores tuvieron un incremento de 86% en hospitalizaciones de salud mental de acuerdo a la información de la oficina de desarrollo y planeación de la salud a nivel estatal. En el mismo periodo los jóvenes Anglosajones y afro-americanos tuvieron un incremento de 21% y 31% respectivamente.

Leslie Preston, Directora de salud de la Clínica de La Raza, sugiere que la escasez de psiquiatras bilingües y biculturales limita el acceso al cuidado preventivo a los niños latinos, lo cual se une a la crisis que enfrentan los profesionales.

"Todos están tratando de contratar médicos que hablen español", Preston declaró. "No

hay suficientes médicos para satisfacer la demanda."

Jeff Rackmil, director del sistema de salud de los niños en el condado de Alameda, mencionó que el crecimiento de la población y el aumento de niños latinos bajo el programa de Medi-Cal podría ser la razón del incremento.

Sin embargo, la población latina de 24 años y menores en California aumento solamente un 8% del 2007 al 2014, de acuerdo a estadísticas estatales. Además, menos de un 4% de niños latinos recibieron servicios especiales de salud mental a través del programa de Medi-Cal entre el 2010 y el 2014, lo cual contrasta con un 7% entre los niños anglosajones y afro-americanos elegibles.

"Frecuentemente las familias esperan hasta que los niños estén afectados mentalmente", comentó el Doctor Sergio Aguilar Gaxiola, profesor de Medicina en la Escuela Davis, de la Universidad de California.

Otros expertos sostienen que la resistencia cultural y el estigma detectado en la consejería de salud mental, afectan los reportes de familias latinas con ni-

ños enfrentando esos problemas de salud.

En el transcurso de su carrera el Dr. Alok Banga, director médico en el Hospital Sierra Vista en Sacramento, se ha dado cuenta que algunos padres inmigrantes no creen en enfermedades mentales y no entienden la necesidad de atención cuando un niño cae en depresión o intenta suicidarse. Varios padres de familia tienen más de un empleo, menciona el Dr. Alok, y aquellos sin un estado legal temen acudir a un hospital y enfrentar al Servicio de Protección de Niños.

De acuerdo al Dr. Banga, la falta de psiquiatras para niños y de un servicio al cliente disponible para comunidades latinas sigue siendo un gran problema.

"El incumplimiento del tratamiento médico recae en instituciones: hospitales, cárceles y prisiones," expresó el Dr. Banga.

Juan García, Profesor retirado de la Universidad del Estado de California en Fresno, expresó que los servicios psicológicos son escasos en el Central Valley, donde la mayoría de agricultores son latinos. Estos trabajadores han sido y siguen siendo los más

afectados por la sequía y la gran recesión, argumenta García, lo cual ha generado ansiedad, abuso de sustancias y otros problemas psicológicos.

De acuerdo a la recopilación de datos, la hospitalización psiquiátrica de jóvenes latinos por cuestiones mentales en el condado de Fresno se ha triplicado entre el 2007 y el 2014, mientras el índice de afro-americanos y anglosajones muestra un incremento de casi el doble.

"Los servicios para esta población se ha retrasado por décadas en relación a donde debería de estar hoy", comenta García.

Algunos hospitales reportan que niños se mantienen estancados por días en los pasillos de los cuartos de emergencia, esperando una cama en el hospital en medio de una crisis psiquiátrica. "Es una experiencia traumática para las familias y los niños," comunicó Shannyn McDonald, Jefe del Departamento del sistema de Comportamiento de Salud de los niños.

En años recientes el condado ha expandido su programa de publicidad, que se encarga de contratar a miembros de la comunidad como trabajadores so-

ciales para ofrecer servicios de salud mental básicos.

Rosy Gomar, del pueblo de Oakdale es una de las trabajadoras sociales. Ella dedica de 60 a 70 horas a la semana manteniendo una relación entre el gobierno local y los residentes latinos.

Rosy comenta, "Hay muchos jóvenes quienes no tienen ninguna esperanza."

Sin embargo, esa situación puede cambiar gracias al trabajo de Rosy. Un cliente de Gomar de 17 años de edad, cuyo nombre se ha remitido por causas de privacidad, relato como la consejería le ayudo a superar el haber terminado una relación con su novio. Ella había estado consumiendo alcohol, usando drogas, hasta el punto de contemplar quitarse la vida ya que tenía miedo hablar con sus padres al respecto. Finalmente, decidió acudir a la oficina de la trabajadora social y comenzó a llorar.

"Gomar me dijo todo va a estar bien, te queremos aquí," La muchacha comentó. "Cuando estaba hablando con ella, me sentí mucho mejor."

—Traducción Tare Beltranchuc y Marco Villa

## A Rise in Latino Youth Psychiatric Hospitalization

The psychiatric hospitalizations of Latino youths in California are dramatically outpacing those of White and Black children and young adults, according to state data. Experts are at odds over what is causing the increase.

*Kaiser Health News* reports that between 2007 and 2014, Latinos 21 and younger saw an 86 percent spike in mental health hospitalizations, according to information from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. In the same pe-

riod, White and Black youths saw 21 percent and 35 percent increases, respectively.

Leslie Preston, behavioral health director of La Clínica de La Raza, suggests the shortage of bilingual, bicultural mental health workers limits the access Latino children have to preventative care, which adds to the potential for a later crisis faced by professionals.

"Everybody's trying to hire the Spanish-speaking clinicians," Preston told *Kaiser Health News*. "There are just

not enough clinicians to meet that demand."

Jeff Rackmil, director of the children's healthcare system in Alameda County, said population growth and the increase of Latino children insured under Medi-Cal could account for the rise.

But California's Latino population aged 24 and younger increased by less than 8 percent from 2007 to 2014, according to state figures. Furthermore, less than 4 percent of Latino children received specialty mental health

services through Medi-Cal between 2010 and 2014, which stands in contrast to 7 percent rates among eligible Black and White children.

"Often, [families] wait until [children] are falling apart," said Dr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, a professor at University of California at Davis Medical School.

Other experts contend that cultural resistance and the perceived stigma of mental health counseling exacerbates the lower rates of reporting by Latino families with children facing those issues.

In the experience of Dr. Alok Banga, medical director at Sierra Vista Hospital in Sacramento, some immigrant parents don't believe in mental illness and fail to grasp the urgency when a child has depression or attempts suicide. Many parents work several jobs, he said, and those without legal status can be afraid of coming to the hospital or crossing paths with Child Protective Services.

But, the lack of child psychiatrists and outpatient services available to Latino communities remains the biggest problem, according to Banga.

"The default course for treatment falls on institutions: hospitals, jails and prisons," he said.

Juan Garcia, professor emeritus at California State University, Fresno, noted that psychological services in the Central Valley, where many agricultural workers are Latino, are especially sparse. These workers bore and still bear the brunt of the drought and great recession, he argues, which has resulted in anxiety, substance abuse and other psychological issues.

Psychiatric hospitalizations of Fresno County Latino youths

more than tripled between 2007 and 2014, according to the data, while rates for their Black and White peers about doubled.

"The services to this population lag decades behind where they should be," Garcia told *Kaiser Health News*.

Some hospitals report children stuck in emergency room hallways for days, waiting for hospital beds amid psychiatric crises. "It makes for a very traumatized experience for both families and children," said Shannyn McDonald, chief of the Stanislaus County Behavioral Health Department's children's system of care.

In recent years the county has expanded its "promotora program," which enlists members of the Latino community to talk to their peers about mental health.

Rosy Gomar, from the town of Oakdale, is one of those social workers. She spends 60 to 70 hours a week as a liaison between the town government and Latino residents.

"There are many young people who don't have any hope," she said.

But thanks to her work, that may be changing. One of Gomar's clients, a 17-year-old whose name was withheld for her privacy, related how such counseling helped following a break-up with her boyfriend. She had been drinking, abusing drugs, contemplating suicide and was afraid to talk to her parents.

Eventually, she walked into Gomar's office and began to cry.

"She told me 'Everything is OK. We want you here,'" the girl explained. "When I was talking with her, I felt so much better."

—Larry Smith

## Woman Receives Certificate Of Rehabilitation from Judge

By Forrest Lee Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

A U.S. district judge issued a "certificate of rehabilitation" to a woman he had sentenced over a decade ago, according to a report by the Collateral Consequences Resource Center.

In his final tenure on the bench, U.S. District Judge John Gleeson offered a ruling that set a new precedent for federal courts in modifying consequential effects of a criminal record that doesn't completely erase it, says the report.

Gleeson's opinion could inform how future sentencing courts can influence a potential employer to give a second chance to a person with a criminal record, according to the report.

Gleeson drew from certificate models created by other states, including the one cho-

sen by Illinois through the actions of then State Senator Barack Obama, says the report.

"The federal system has much to gain from adopting a certification system similar to those in certain states," said Gleeson.

According to the case, Jane Doe ran into trouble gaining employment given her criminal record. Gleeson acknowledged that most prospective employers do not have the "time or resources to gain a comprehensive understanding of who Doe is" and then determine whether her conviction should play a role in her hiring.

But in the case, Gleeson said he did the work for the prospective employers.

"I've reviewed each page of Doe's trial transcript," Gleeson said in his opinion. "Any legitimate impact that her fraudulent actions more than

15 years ago may have had on her suitability for employment no longer exists. Jane Doe is rehabilitated."

Expunging a criminal record is a "forgiveness" model. In other words, while the court acknowledges the conviction and leaves the person's criminal record intact, it uses a certificate of rehabilitation or pardon as a symbolic expression of society's forgiveness of the underlying offense conduct.

"The forgiveness model ... is gaining favor in the reentry community for both functional and philosophical reasons..." Gleeson said. "I believe a certificate of rehabilitation can significantly alleviate the collateral effects of a criminal record by emitting a powerful signal that the same system that found a person deserving of punishment has now found that individual fit to fully rejoin the community."

# SQ's Chapel Services Provide Positive Impact

By Forrest Lee Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

Religion behind bars can have a major positive impact on prisoners turning their lives around, a university researcher reports.

"There is a humanity that I think the prison church embodies that is extraordinary," said Jason Sexton in an interview with the Orange County Register. Sexton is a University Honors lecturer at the California State University at Fullerton who specializes in Theology.

His research focuses on the interracial and intergenerational components of prison churches. Sexton was incarcerated for three years in the 1990s by the California Youth Authority.

He hopes his research will disclose more about churches in California prisons, especially those associated with the Christian faith, the Feb. 25 story stated.

The report says that Sexton plans to address questions, including: If there is hope for rehabilitation while in prison? What types of reformation agents are available? Why do incarcerated individuals join religious communities?

He said he intends to interview about 50 formerly incarcerated people, most of them former California prisoners in for a significant time.

Sexton said the reasons inmates turn to prison churches include motivation, direction, meaning for life, hope for the future, peace of mind, positive self-esteem and lifestyle changes.

San Quentin State Prison Chaplain Mardi Ralph Jackson said reformatory tools aim at changing lives include Bible studies, seminary classes, music and youth ministries.

"The principles of God's word give these men the desire to change and live a more lawful life," the chaplain commented in an interview.

San Quentin's Catholic Priest Father George Williams, S.J., said, "It's not the program itself that changes the inmate; it's the inmates wanting to change themselves."

Williams said in an interview some inmates embrace religion because they are looking for meaning, purpose and direction in their lives. They come to a point where they realize they must change. They are men who were raised up in the church, fell away and now have come back.

However, Sexton discovered other less-honorable reasons why inmates join a church, such as protection, a designated time and place to meet with other inmates, interaction with women volunteers, and access to prison resources.

Most noteworthy to Sexton is how races interact in prison churches. "Your race dictates everything (in prison)," he said. "It showcases the structures that are at play in the prisons."

"But when it comes to prison churches, race doesn't seem to be as significant. Prison churches transcend racial barriers, and participants will often assist one another in overcoming hard-



File photo

## San Quentin's Chapel Plaza

ships like drug addiction and violence," Sexton said.

Prison churches also transcend generational factors of prisoners. Sexton is interested in whether age is a factor in how churches attract or affect participants.

"When it works, it seems to me that Christians uniquely care for their own in ways that display a special solidarity," he commented.

Sexton reported the California prison population has nearly grown six-fold since 1980. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports the state's prison population is about 123,000.

The issue is hard-pressing

because many incarcerated individuals in California prisons will one day be released and should be able to transition back to the workforce and positively contribute to society, Sexton said.

"My relationship with God has given me hope, faith and love. I hope to pastor a church someday," said Trent Capell, educational minister for the San Quentin Garden Chapel.

"Religion has given me strength to endure, peace of mind and hope for the future. When I'm released someday, I hope to restore my community," said Garden Chapel Clerk Darrell "Obadiah" Flowers.

Sexton said he believes alli-

ances between prison churches and outside churches benefit the transition of former inmates back into society.

"The different churches that come into the Garden Chapel to minister to the inmate congregation serve as an example to them and encourage them to want to live a better life, once they're released," said Chaplain Jackson.

"Volunteers who come into the Catholic Chapel to fellowship with the inmate congregation remind them that they are still part of the Catholic Church," said Chaplain Williams.

"I am curious to see how theology can help us understand (California prisons) better and do better with it," says Sexton.

## Kevin Carr's Nineteen Years of Struggles and Healing

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

Kevin Carr says he can now see the light at the end of the tunnel since California voters passed initiatives in 2012 and 2014 that reduced the state's tough on crime laws.

Nineteen years ago, Carr was a different person.

"I was struck out for a commercial burglary for stealing about \$160 worth of children's clothes," Carr said. "After I got caught, I got into a scuffle with a security guard."

Carr said the incident was not his first encounter with the law, and for that he was given a life sentence under the state's Three Strikes Law.

His incarceration experience is typical for a California inmate. He began his life sentence at a maximum-security prison. However, by staying clean, he worked his way to a medium-security prison -- San Quentin.

"I came here with an understanding that I could do what I wanted to do," Carr said. "But, I didn't know that God was preparing me for something bigger."

Carr said he got a spiritual awakening and a desire to seek insight into the factors that led him to prison through a Christian fellowship group, Dug Out Ministries.

"I was introduced to dif-



Courtesy of Kevin Carr

Kevin Carr

ferent programs, like Project REACH," which is a literacy program geared toward at-risk youth, Carr said. "Then, within a year, I got my high school diploma. But, even though I was putting forth an effort to better my life, I was still dealing with the fact that I had a life sentence."

Carr said he ultimately gained the ability to grasp how his criminal acts affected his victims, the community, his family and himself through the help of Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG). VOEG puts crime victims and offenders together to seek healing through dialogue centered on the rippling effects of crime.

Carr's list of self-help groups includes programs that examine

male role models and masculinity, drug and alcohol abuse, financial literacy, criminal thinking and how to safely re-enter the community.

"My upbringing as a man comes from taking these groups," Carr said. "But most impactful was the leadership of Pastor Curry (former San Quentin Protestant chaplain). He gave me the chance to teach my first Bible study. That sparked an eight-year period of teaching Christianity to the men in blue. Teaching also helped me become a better person. My aim and goal is to help people with their spiritual growth."

Carr said he's also been encouraged through sports.

"Playing sports kept me balanced with being a man of God," he said. "A lot of men saw that even though I had downfalls and uprisings, I kept a positive and spiritual attitude."

Carr said being involved with Christian Ministries has also bettered his relationships.

"I learned how to be sacrificial and selfless," he said. "I learned I could be more outgoing and how to communicate with others."

He says he needed the San Quentin experience in order to mature and become the person he is today.

"The failure of Proposition 66 was bitter/sweet," Carr said referring to a 2006 attempt at three strikes reform. "I say this

because, looking back, I was not ready to be paroled. I still needed to do a lot of work on myself."

In 2012, three strikes reform passed through Proposition 36, and Carr was interviewed by a local television station, along with several other prisoners.

"It was kind of depressing," Carr said, "Everyone in that interview has been paroled. I'm the last one to go. But, I stayed strong and continued the work."

Carr applied for relief, three years later, after the passage of Proposition 47.

"I don't want to complain," Carr said. "I needed the time as a spiritual man," adding "When I got a letter from the courts, I knew I had a chance at freedom."

Carr said his Los Angeles County Jail experience was an emotional roller coaster.

"Three days after I got to county jail a riot broke out between Black and Hispanics," Carr said. "But I took a stance not to get involved. About a week later, I got a deadly disease that was not treated until five days after I got it."

"While I was in the county jail, I talked to a lot of youngsters," Carr said. "They were asking me if I knew their fathers who were in prison. They didn't know their dads, and they lacked a male role model. Eight out of 10 didn't know their dads while mothers were

struggling."

Carr said that he was able to meet his son for the first time in 19 years. His son, Kevin Jr., was in the same jail.

"We spent two hours together in the holding tank, crying, embracing each other," Carr said. "A week later, I saw my 21-year-old daughter. She drove up from Phoenix. I saw a lot of family during my time in the county jail. The judge was impressed by the 17 family members who were coming to all the hearings. He said since being on the bench, he's never seen so much support."

During his re-sentencing, the judge considered Carr's accomplishments in prison, letters of support from correctional officers and that he didn't have any serious rules violations.

With that in mind, the judge took away Carr's life sentence and left him with 21 years and three months to serve. Carr has less than three years to apply for parole.

"Meeting with my children was so impactful. Since then, my daughter has changed her life and is working for a bank," Carr said. "My son has gotten out of jail, stopped gang-banging, got a job, has sole custody of his 7-year-old son, and became a youth minister."

"I've learned the importance of rehabilitation, family ties, unity and an enduring spiritual foundation" Carr said.

# The Civil War Through the Eyes of a Protagonist

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

The Red Badge of Courage (1895) is a powerful storytelling event, placed during the American Civil War. It is told through the eyes of protagonist, Henry Flemming, referred to as the youth.

Author, Stephen Crane uses the youth's observations while in the mists of battle to give readers an honest look at an individual's core beliefs and his self-evaluation regarding the circumstance of death.

Crane sets up the reader by using institutionalization, dehumanization, and peer pressure as literary devices.

The youth's institutionalization is depicted in the beginning of the novel through his attitude about war.

Crane creates an interesting link with the youth's transformation of being institutionalized to his expectations that he'd be proud of conduct during war.

As he perceived this fact it occurred to him that he had never wished to come to war.

## Book Review

He had not enlisted of his free will. He had been dragged by the merciless government. And now they were taking him to be slaughtered.

Dehumanization shows ups in how the youth interprets his superiors' attitude about sending his regiment into, what he believed to be, a losing battle:

A dog, a woman, an' a walnut tree, Th' more yeh beat 'em, th' better they be!

It was the youth's shame about running fearfully away from the battle that caused him to look inward, seeking worth.

The youth, in seeing how his peers viewed death, sought the same:

He conceived persons with torn bodies to be peculiarly happy. He wished that he too, had a wound, a red badge of courage.

As he went on, he seemed always looking for a place, like one who goes to choose a

grave.

The Red Badge of Courage has a relentless storytelling appeal through its contrast against keen observations about Nature in wartime.

The round red discharges from the guns made a crimson flare and a high, thick smoke.

Nature keeps its neutrality, by adhering to a constant state of clam in spite of man's destructive character.

There was much blood upon the grass blades.

Crane is constantly interpreting the meaning of being a warrior and while struggling for dignity and life in the mist of battle.

...he instantly saw that it would be impossible for him to escape from the regiment. It inclosed him. And there were iron laws of tradition and law on four sides. He was in a moving box.

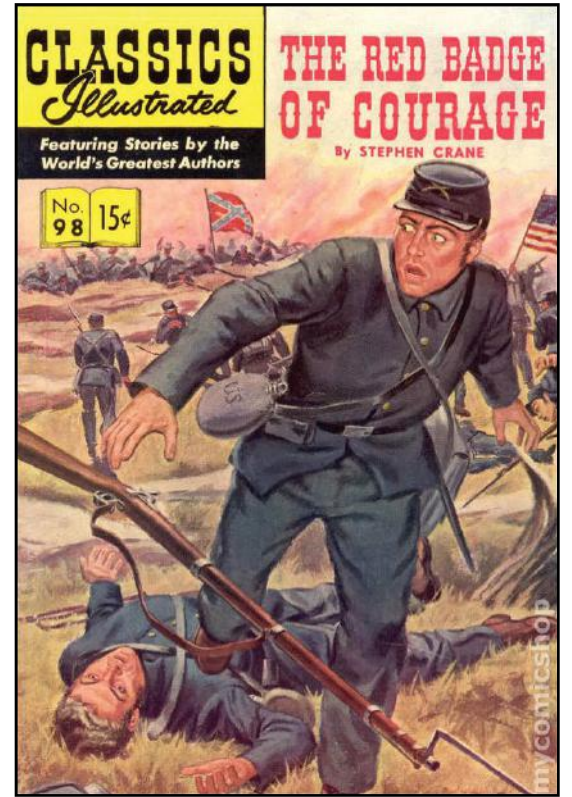
While finding a way to keep the youth's dignity and war-

rior-like persona in the last battle, Crane used symbolism in a very smart way:

The battle flag in the disgrace jerked about madly.

It seemed to be struggling to free itself from an agony. The billowing smoke was filled with horizontal flashes.

When Henry transformed into the warrior, the war hero, the person that his superiors look to as an example of the type of person who'd fight and kill in war, it was a reminder of the person who'd he'd wanted himself to be seen as.



When all is done and it is over, The Red Badge of Courage, readers should look for how Crane, long before this time, tackles Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

## Heroic Traits Learned From Father or Father Figures

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Father's Day is always the third Sunday of June. It is a day set aside in honor of fathers. Webster's New World College Dictionary states--among 12 noun definitions--that father is "a person regarded as a male parent; protector." Among the five transitive verb definitions, to be a father is "to take responsibility for."

"Asked on the Line" approached men in blue and asked them to tell us of any admirable traits they learned or inherited from their fathers or father-figures.

William Tolbert replied with a poem for William Earl Tolbert Sr., in memory of his father: "With the breath you have given me, I have overcome my fears. I embrace you. You are my father."

Christopher Scull said, "My

father is my superhero. From saving me when I was choking to trying to keep me from hanging out with the wrong crowd, he protected my life. Now that he is old and sick, I want to save him. I will always remember him as my superhero. I love you Dad!"

Dwayne Jones said, "My father taught me to be responsible. He taught me to respect others, and to always be a best friend, the best brother, uncle and father. Thanks, Dad."

Antwan Williams said that his father always told him, "You are a Williams. You can adapt to anything." This phrase meant a lot to Antwan. "My father gave me the courage and confidence to face life as it is presented to me. Thank you, Dad," said Antwan.

Sam Johnson Sr. honored three men. "To my father Christopher J. Johnson, my father figure, Jack Diocesan, and my father-in-law Hans Williams:

## Asked On The Line

With my father, it was not always easy growing up in the South, but he loved me in the best way he knew. He taught me how to drive a car and encouraged me to love my mother and siblings unconditionally. My father figure taught me how to be accountable for my actions and how to cry without being embarrassed or ashamed. My father-

in-law gave me his daughter's hand, and I learned to see the beauty in marriage and to behold God's gift to man."

Dwight Krizman: "My dad was born in 1914 in Eastern Europe. He immigrated to the United States and became a proud U.S. citizen. He taught me how to live with dignity and honor and to always be myself!"

Matthew Nguyen said that because of his father, he learned to help others when they are in need or in an emergency. "I learned to be like my father, just like when he fought in the Vietnam War."

Anthony "Habib" Watkins: "The person I have great admiration for is my father Marvin Watkins. He will forever be the greatest man that has ever lived. He taught me to work hard, to be a good provider, and to let my actions have the biggest effect of all."

- June is the second of four months in a year with thirty (30) days. This year, June has five Wednesdays and five Thursdays.
- Flag Day is on Tuesday, June 14; Father's Day is on Sunday, June 19, and the summer solstice, or first day of summer, is on Monday, June 20.
- For the Christian community, the solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is on Friday, June 3; the Obligatory Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on Saturday, June 4, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, is on Friday, June 24.
- For members of the Muslim community, the first day of Ramadan begins at sundown on Monday, June 6.
- According to the World Almanac, June is National Candy Month, Potty Training Awareness Month, National Safety Month, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month.
- There are two astrological signs in June: Gemini, the sign of the Twins (May 21 to June 21) and Cancer, the sign of the Crab (June 22 to July 22)
- The June birthstone is the Pearl, Moonstone or Alexandrite.

## San Quentin's Legal Mail Log Procedures

### MACa Corner

The federal and state constitution guarantee inmates the ability to bring their cases to court. However, most of them do so without lawyers.

It is important for inmates to keep track of what court papers are sent and received to and from court. All of this tracking is done by mail.

Mail going to the court is labeled "confidential correspondence" or "legal mail."

The mail room at San Quentin does not keep a log of any incoming legal mail. It is only required to keep a log of outgoing legal mail.

"We only keep a mail log of

outgoing legal mail to all state courts, federal courts and to the California Attorney General. No other outgoing legal mail is logged by the mail room," said mail room Supervisor Alex Lile.

Inmates who file court papers and want a copy of their incoming legal mail log must make that request to housing unit custody staff, where the permanent record of incoming legal mail is kept, says Lile.

Housing unit staff also logs all

outgoing legal mail in addition to incoming legal mail.

Prison regulations require that the log must contain, at a minimum, the date of delivery to the inmate, the inmate's name and signature, and the sender's name and address. Senders of legal mail must be listed either in the Department Operations Manual (DOM) §54010.12.1 or in the Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) §3141(c).

—Angelo Falcone



Courtesy of Anthony Watkins

Anthony's father Marv Watkins Sr., 89, with his great granddaughter, Lisa

**"The person I have great admiration for is my father Marv Watkins. He will forever be the greatest man that has ever lived. He taught me to work hard, to be a good provider, and to let my actions have the biggest effect of all."**

—Anthony "Habib" Watkins



## Beverly Parenti Awarded for Her Work With SQ Inmates

By Noel Scott  
Journalism Guild Writer

Providing inmates with valuable skills that they can utilize for employment once out of prison became a priority for Beverly Parenti and her husband, Chris Redlitz, after a visit to San Quentin State Prison five years ago.

"Our mission is to provide marketable skills that will result in gainful employment," said Parenti in an interview with CBS *SF Bay Area News*. "We believe that having a job is truly the key to successful re-entry."



File photo

Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti

Parenti and Redlitz, who spent years working in the high-tech industry, were inspired to create The Last Mile program after meeting the inmates at the prison. The pro-

gram has also taught inmates how to start a business and other entrepreneurial skills necessary in the industry today. Shortly after The Last Mile began teaching computer coding at San Quentin.

For her ground-breaking work with the inmates of San Quentin State Prison, Parenti recently received the Jefferson Award, reported CBS News.

"What The Last Mile did was introduce us to the idea of how technology has changed, the way businesses operate and the way businesses compete," said Kenyatta Leal, a graduate of the program, in an

interview with CBS.

Leal is one of the graduates of The Last Mile who is now out of prison and gainfully employed. Leal currently manages campus services for RocketSpace, a technology incubator in San Francisco.

"Computer coding is one business area where you would be judged by the quality of your work, not by the stigma of your past," said Parenti.

The Last Mile program has become so successful that it has received funding for expansion to six more prisons including two women's facilities.

## The Last Mile's Graduate Finds Work in Silicon Valley

By Steven Harris  
Journalism Guild Writer

An inmate released from San Quentin prison has a new life working for a high-tech company in Silicon Valley.

Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal grew up in San Diego, California, quit school and began dealing drugs.

In 1991 he was sent to prison for three years for an armed robbery of a restaurant.

Leal said when after his release from prison he went back to the same crowd with the same criminal thinking.

In 1994, Leal was arrested for possessing a gun as an ex-felon and sentenced to 25 years to life under California's newly enacted Three Strikes law.

By staying out of trouble during his incarceration, Leal was transferred to San Quentin in 2006.

He said he took advantage of the numerous self-help programs at San Quentin, including The Last Mile (TLM).

TLM is the brainchild of venture capitalists Beverly Parenti and Chris Redlitz and provides inmates with the opportunity to develop innovative business concepts.

"A great opportunity for me to transform my hustle," Leal told *The New York Times*.

Parenti said the purpose behind TLM originally was to reduce recidivism and reduce the cost of prison spending.

Redlitz said he advises TLM

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

Leal graduated from TLM in 2012.

Scores of Bay Area business leaders attended the graduation, including Duncan Logan, the founder of RocketSpace, a company that provides offices and supportive ecosystems for startups.

When Logan met Leal he offered him a job upon his release from prison.

That November, California

voters changed the Three Strikes law, which gave a judge the opportunity to review Leal's case and prison files.

The judge changed Leal's life sentence to seven years. Leal had already served 19 and was released from prison.

Since an initial internship, Leal has become RocketSpace's manager of campus services.

"I think that there's a parallel between the entrepreneur and the prisoner," he told the *Times*. "A lot of these guys, they've failed, and they got up, and they're trying again. And so have I."



File photo

Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal

## Opening Day Attracts a Large Crowd of Spectators

Continued from Page 1

Duane Harris, Mission's first baseman added, "The wheels just fell off. We made a lot of defensive mistakes, but we are very honored to have played the opening game."

The Mission stayed in the game, down 2-0 in the fourth. Shortstop Chris Powell singled and stole second. Mitch Burnham walked, setting up first time visitor Elan Lavie, who hit a deep ball in the center field gap. Lavie drove in Powell, but injured himself running to first. Burnham made it to third. Pitcher Sean Presley substituted for Lavie. Presley sacrificed himself by getting caught on a fake steal to second, allowing

Burnham to come in for the tie.

"I remember that play from high school," said Burnham. "I'm just glad to be back. Every time I come, I think about the criminal justice system. All the reforms coming are for the better. I hope to see more on the state level."

Lavie added, "This is a unique experience. It's good people and a great view here with Mount Tam in the background. I think it's healthy to have sports in prison."

It was particularly healthy for All-Star David Fraire. He was just released from the Security Housing Unit (SHU) after nine years.

"I appreciate the institution and especially the guys who



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Rubin Harper headed for homebase

have been out here paving the way for this type of program," said Fraire. "To play and socialize with people from the streets, this is real life. I'm enjoying this atmosphere of brotherhood without the prison drama. Now I can work on going home."

The April 30 event started with the San Quentin color guard walking down the first base line and presenting the flags in front of the pitcher's mound. Inmate Barton "Sky" Buenavista

belted out a beautiful national anthem. The All-Stars also debuted their new uniforms.

Mission Head Coach Greg Snyder received a baseball signed by all the All-Stars players in recognition of his service and dedication to the program. Snyder has consistently brought teams in over the years. This was their first opening day.

"I like the ceremony and receiving the ball," said Snyder. "It was sweet; I thank everybody. I like this program; I think everybody deserve some breaks. These guys make the games fun, and I like playing with people with good attitudes. I congratulate them on their win."

The game bought out a large crowd of prisoners and staff. It was witnessed by a reporter

from the Marin Independent Journal newspaper. The perennial hecklers let both teams know that they were involved in every play.

Matt Goldman, first-time visitor and Mission player, said, "These guys are better than most teams we play on the outside."

He is the varsity coach at a high school and a sports writer for SB Sport Blog Nation. He went 3 for 1 for the game.

"This was a good win," said All-Stars inside Head Coach John "Yah Yah" Parrett. "This gave a lot of former (SQ) A's players a chance to face Mission. We are still young, but as time goes by, we will get better. We will never take any team lightly."

-Marcus Henderson



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

John Windham rounding second base

# Two Records Broken At Fifth Annual Relay Meet

By Marcus Henderson  
Staff Writer

Two record-breaking performances highlighted the San Quentin 1000 Mile Club's Fifth Annual Relay Meet.

The team of Carlos Moreno, Chris Scull, Eddie Herena and Markelle Taylor broke the 4 x 1 mile relay with the time of 21:34. Each premier runner ran the mile with speed and focus. Even an unwanted alarm could not slow them down. After the yard resumed Herena shot out the blocks with the speed of a cheetah, making up lost time and beating the record by a minute.

"We put the work in," said Sculls. "This is the fruit of our labor, and it tastes great."

Herena added, "I couldn't do it without Markelle. He's a natural leader along with the rest of the team. We set our mind to go for the record."

The 4 x 200 meter Sprint relay record fell to the same high-performance crew of Donald "Tex" Walker, Jonathan Cannon, Tone Evans and

John Windham, who set the record in 2014. They shaved off two seconds of their time, coming in at 1:44.

"We're getting older and faster," said Evans. "It's the spectators that make these events go. To see them cheer makes us all go; it's uplifting."

Evans entertained the large crowd by running barefoot.

"It feels good to give the people a show, but we want to bring more youngsters out," said Walker.

The team of Walker, Cannon, Windham and Evans also won the 4 x 100 meters shuttle relay in 0:48.28., just missing the record by 1.28 set by Erick Nelson, Leroy Lucas, Tone Evans and John Windham in 2014.

The final event of the meet was the 4 x 1/4 Mile Relay. The same team that won the 4 x 100M and 4 x 200M relays earlier in the meet ran with Joshua Burton substituting for Tone Evans. They hoped to break the record of 4:08 set in 2013 by Malcolm Williams, Morceli Abdel Kader, Jahkeem Stokes

and Carlyle Blake. Each runner would have to run a 1:02 or faster to do it. Burton ran the fastest leg in this relay with a 0:59 1/4 mile, but the team fell 7.26 seconds short of the record coming in at 4:14.

"This is incredible," said Jim Maloney, first-time visitor and volunteer. "To see all these different people come together. Running is a spiritual and holistic experience for your whole well-being."

Maloney read about the club in the February issue of *GQ* magazine, listened to the interviews on KCBS, and decided to donate his time to the program.

Oscar Aguilar, Chris Schuhmacher, Cuactemec "Temo" Zamora and Jesus Sanchez won the Distance Medley race with the time of 13:59.83. The medley consisted of three laps for the first-leg, one lap, then two laps and four laps to close.

"Most of my team speaks Spanish," said Schuhmacher. "This shows we can come together."

Sanchez added, "I run for



Photo by Kristina Khokhobashvili

Chris Scull leading Morceli Abdel Kader in race

my family and this program. It helps me think differently. I want to get out and run in other competitions."

The April 15 event displayed skills and unity for the participants.

"It's about positive people supporting each other in a negative place," said Tommy Wickerd, club runner.

Elder club member Dennis Barnes, 66, concluded, "This team makes life worthwhile. The younger guys say we are an inspiration for them, but they are an inspiration for us to keep running. I like to thank all the coaches; they are super people."

—Frank Ruona  
contributed to this story

# SQ Kings Win In Overtime Over Trailblazers

By Steven Harris  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Kings basketball team tracked down the visiting Trailblazers to tie the game and win in overtime, 70-65.

"We committed two crucial turnovers with 10 seconds to play and that cost us the game," Trailblazer head coach Ted Saltveit said.

In the fourth quarter, the Trailblazers were up 65-63, with seconds left to play. King Marvin Cosby knocked down a three-pointer for the lead. The Trailblazers tied it up with five seconds to go.

The Trailblazers had the ball again going for the win but tried to force the ball to forward Will Wheatly. King Demond Lewis denied the ball and both teams scrambled for the loose ball. King Oris "Pep" Williams came up with the ball. Lewis was open for a potential lay-up, but Williams did not see him and heaved the



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

D. "Zyad" Nickolson making a lay-up defended by Trailblazer Will Wheatly

ball at the rim. It fell short to send the game into OT.

In overtime, Kings forward D. "Zayd" Nickolson worked hard in the low post rebounding and scoring. He finished

with 12 points. Crosby ran the offense with controlled ball savvy. His knockdown mid-range jumpers and his free throws secured the win. He finished with 15 points.

"We needed to speed up the tempo," said Williams. "We got some points on the fast break. It was a beautiful day."

The game started slow and neither team could find a rhythm. Lewis hit a three-pointer to get the ball rolling. He ended the game with 20 points. More impressive was his defense on Trailblazers key player Wheatly. Wheatly still managed a game-high 28 points.

The Trailblazers featured new guard Orlando Watkins.

"I'm glad to be here," said Watkins. "I told all my friends I was coming here to play ball."

The first quarter was a low-scoring affair; the Kings led 13-7. The officiating frustrated both ball clubs.

"I wanted to run," said King guard Tare Beltran. "I like a fast pace back and forth game."

The Trailblazers began the second quarter taking advantage of mismatches with center Damien Cosby. He put up 16 points and did a solid job re-

bounding. His team regained the lead at half-time, 24-18.

Kings' head coach Orlando Harris had to ignite his team to stay focused.

"We committed too many turnovers," said Harris. "We needed to take care of the ball."

At half-time, both teams met at the half-court circle. Lewis talked about how he got to prison and what playing basketball means to him.

"I shot a guy in the leg," said Lewis. "I did not want to kill him. He just beat up another guy real bad and he wanted to fight me next."

Lewis got 15 years for that and 94 years of enhancements. He said that he won awards for playing ball in school and only his real family came to his games.

"I wanted to go to college," said Lewis. "I got my girlfriend pregnant. Now I play ball for them and my new family here at San Quentin."

The intensity increased in the second half. Williams led fast breaks, finding center J. "Mailman" Ratchford for lay-ups.

Wheatly got into a rhythm on offense, but the Kings came out the third quarter ahead, 41-34.

"I thank the visitors for coming and giving their support to the program," said King Aubra-Lamont McNeely at the April 16 game.

The prison board recently gave McNeely a three-year denial. In an emotional exchange, Saltveit told him that he supported him in his denial and whatever his future holds.

Saltveit said that he got to know McNeely over the past seasons and he sees McNeely as a man he wants to be like.

McNeely concluded that he would continue working on making himself more suitable for parole.

# Intramural Basketball League Kicks Off With Blowouts

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Mother's Day weekend brought with it the start of the San Quentin Intramural Basketball League.

On Friday night in the gym, Bay Area Ballers faced off against a team made up of Christians called Kingdom Warriors.

Despite Kingdom Warriors having Harry "ATL" Smith and other talented players, Bay Area Ballers won 43-39 led by the 59-year old Paul Oliver's 21 points. Smith led his team with 14.

Net Zero 2.0 coached by Aaron "Harun" Taylor whipped the Muslim team called The Mu'mins (Believers) 64-37. Trevon Smith led Net Zero with 17 points, 5 boards, 2 assists and 3 steals, followed by Aaron Sanders' 12 points and 12 rebounds double-double.

Allan McIntosh led No Name with 17 points and 7 rebounds followed by Anthony Ammons with 16 points and 7 boards. John Earl Newton III added 12 and 7 boards in the 60-33 victory over Pookie and the Boys. Ammons scored his first basket with a one-handed jam setting the tone for the blowout.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Paul Oliver

# Improved SQ Warriors Squad Loses Opener

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

The San Quentin Warriors seemed ready to sweep the 2016 season with their new recruits, but they fell short to Christian Sports Ministries' Green Team, 74-66 in the season opener.

"I think it might have been first game jitters. My team came out a tad bit arrogant," said Warriors' Coach Daniel Wright about why the Warriors lost.

The Warriors warmed up in

anticipation of the competition arriving. They won last year's series 7-6 against the Green Team, and they planned to build on that success with an improved roster.

"We were projecting a flawless season," said Warrior Harry "ATL" Smith. "We needed this first lost to get humbled."

New starting players included: Mack Simekins, a former Memphis University player, Tevin Fournette, a former John Marshall High School player, and David Lee, who won a

championship in the San Quentin half court Championship Basketball League.

Opening day was the first game together for the Warriors' new pieces. Meanwhile, the Green Team has been playing together for years, especially former Claremont-McKenna college basketball teammates Chris Blees, Pat Lacey and Remy Pinson.

The Claremont Connection loves to reassemble its basketball team on the SQ green-blue court.

"To get that email from Bill," Pinson said, referring to being notified by Green Team sponsor Bill Epling about scheduled times to go play the Warriors. "It's the highlight of my week," added Lacey.

On the beautiful April 16 sunny Saturday morning, 10 men dressed in basketball shorts and green jerseys came walking down the hill only accessible to non-prisoners – the green team had arrived to start the Warriors 2016 season.

"It's so good to be back. I miss this so much," said Blees.

Everyone met mid court to greet each other and start the opening event with welcoming words.

"Basket is the bait, Jesus is the hook," said Robert "Bishop" Butler, the Warriors general manager.

Epling looked at 6-foot-7 Simekins and joked, "You have a visitor. When I come back, I'll bring your visitor."

After Smith led the teams in prayer, the game started with all the intensity of the NBA finals.

In the first quarter, Lacey went at Simekins, scoring on the taller man twice in the paint. The quarter ended with the Green Team up 19-16.

Lee and Simekins kept the game close. Lee stood out, leading the Warriors with 21 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 steals. He got his driving to the rack and dropping treys.

In the second, Simekins came to life, blocking shots, snatching rebounds and nailing short-range shoots and lay ups.

The Warriors made a few runs, but the Green Team remained patient on offense and made open shots, including four treys dropped by point guard Remy Pinson, who finished with 13. Teammate Anthony Maddox added 14 points and 8 boards.

The Warriors made another run down 56-52 to start the fourth quarter. Allan McIntosh made a dime pass to Smith, who gorilla slammed on a defender. (Smith finished with 11 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists and 1 steal.)

Anthony Ammons stole the ball from the Green Team, went coast-to-coast but was fouled going up for a layup. He missed both free throws, but McIntosh grabbed the rebound for the put back, tying the score 56-56.

McIntosh, normally a leading scorer, did more passing than shooting. He finished with 5 points, 8 rebounds and 3 assists.

Blees answered driving down court, Europe stepping to the rack. He led all scorers with 22 points, 8 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 assist and 1 block.

The Warriors remained scoreless for five minutes while the Green Team improved to 61-56 and never looked back.

"I think the guys saw them (Green Team) and thought they couldn't play," said McIntosh. "The Green Team rose to the challenge and pulled out a victory – first and last of the year."

Simekins finished with the edge over Lacey with 14 points, 18 rebounds and 5 blocks. Lacey had 11 points, 11 rebounds, 5 assists and a block.

"I'm not used to anybody being there. Where did he come from?" asked the 6-foot-4 Lacey, referring to Simekins.

Fournette missed the first half due to being on a visit. As soon as he entered the game, he scored with a floater over a defender. He added 8 points, making four of six shots.

"They're lucky I wasn't there from the beginning," said Fournette. "Next time it's going to be on."

Lacey remarked, "We may need some more bigs. We'll just get the next graduating class from Claremont-McKenna."

## Warriors Drop Second Game

Despite a new improved roster, the San Quentin Warriors lost their second game of the season to the visiting Imago Dei basketball team, 90-84.

"You have to learn to play with each other," Steve Diekman told the Warriors after the game. Diekman, now 43, was a three-point specialist in college. "When all the guys on the court are capable of doing everything, it's hard for guys to find their role."

New additional Mack Simekins nailed his first four shot attempts, including a spin baseline slam dunk. Then Imago's center Erv Anderson showed up and slowed him down. Simekins still finished with 18 points and 9 rebounds. Anderson had 5 points, 3 assists, 3 steals and 4 blocks.

"That team is definitely a good team," said Imago new recruit Jon Williams. "They played with good fundamentals, so that's good coaching."

Veteran Warriors Allan McIntosh and Anthony Ammons tried to lead their team to victory. McIntosh scored 25. Ammons came off the bench and put on a Jamal Crawford performance, going five for seven



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Harry "ATL" Smith (17) and Tevin Fournette double team Jon Williams (32). Teohn Conner (23) goes base line

from the field and finishing with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Williams improved Imago's roster, helping them leave the Warriors behind a couple of points after each of the first three quarters. Williams shook a Warrior and went baseline for the lay-up on the first play of the game. He finished with 31 points.

Williams, the former New Mexico University basketball

player, wasn't intimidated by playing a road game in prison.

"We are all human," said Williams. "We all lace up our shoes. We are all equal no matter what. Other than that, it's basketball."

Imago's veterans, Teohn Conner, a former semi-pro player, added 30 points and Diekman splashed 6 three-pointers.

—Rahsaan Thomas

## San Quentin Soccer Team Plays Berkeley Students

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Staff Writer

The San Quentin soccer team torched the visiting Hermanos Unidos (United Brothers) 9-2 in its season opener.

After a decade, an outside soccer team returned to the Lower Yard. The last team was also called the Hermanos Unidos.

"We are the new generation," said Marco Barrera, Hermanos' head coach. "We want to revive this tradition and do community work. All our communities have been affected by mass incarceration. A lot of us come from low-income families, and this is our way to show support and give back."

The Hermanos, made up of UC Berkeley students, faced both the veteran SQ Golden Eagles and the younger Earth Quakes.

The Golden Eagles played the first half and put up a whopping eight goals. They scored five in the first quarter off the sharp foot of striker Abdul-Kader Morceli and added three

more in the second.

"It's overwhelming," said Garvin "Jo Jo" Robinson, Golden Eagles Head Coach. "To have a team come in, they could have been doing anything else than coming here."

Earth Quaker Juan Arballo added, "This is the first time in 24 years that I have played somebody from the streets."

"We are building a bright future between the inside and outside communities. For us, it takes away the fear of society and for the guest it takes away the stigma of who we once were when they share this experience with the outside."

Julio Martinez of the Earth Quakes expressed, "It felt like we were playing family out on the field. I love this game, and I leave all of my heart out there every time I play."

The Hermanos put up two goals in the second, after warming up and calming their nerves.

Hermanos' striker Jose Ayon's smooth footwork weaved through the crowd and faked out the goalie for the

score.

"These guys' conditioning is impressive," said Ayon. "We were cold but finally found a rhythm. We didn't know their skill level."

"We came to represent the Black and Latino communities, to let the guys know everybody hasn't given up on them. Even for the older guys, people will help you."

Abel Ruizuelasco, Hermanos' assistant coach, added "We heard the guys' stories and you could feel their love. We came with an open mind, and this experience is humbling."

At half time, the teams formed a circle and shared about the program and what they are willing to commit to.

"This is a good reminder to keep pushing myself," said Hermanos' Gerry Franco. "Today is Mother's Day, and I'm going back to tell her about my experience here. We do need more people of color doing this."

The young Earth Quakes managed to get one run in the second half and hold the



Courtesy of Hermanos Unidos

Soccer team Hermanos Unidos (United Brothers)

visitors.

"Everybody played good and showed great respect," said Arturo Huerta, Earth Quakes Head Coach. "We will continue our training. We thank everybody for coming in."

Sponsor and Coach Crawford concluded, "I am pleased how everything went. I think we can keep making progress and grow. Everybody enjoyed

themselves, and the guys got the chance to share their stories. That is really the rewarding part. We are looking for more teams with different skill levels."

Crawford also added that he's looking to see what the inside teams' needs are, like uniforms, and finding a way to get those things.

The May 8 game ended with everybody winning.

# Amala Walk Unites Prisoners for Peace Summit

By Juan Haines  
and Miguel Quezada

Amala, a youth organization that holds worldwide peace summits, came to San Quentin State Prison on May Day to work on ways to improve communication and community-building skills for traumatized children.

The Amala Walk was the first event prisoner Jim Kitlas has attended since arriving at San Quentin from California State Prison-Los Angeles County in July of last year.

"It touches my heart strings," Kitlas said about the event. "I have a kid who'll need the same things that Amala is doing. So, if I could do something to help, me feel good about myself."

Gustavo de Alba, 21, a prisoner serving a 12-year sentence, said this was the first time he's been at an event like this while in prison.

"It unites us and allows us to meet with other people and dialogue about peace and why it's important," de Alba said.

"The summit is a gathering of a bunch of people who wouldn't otherwise come together," said Ryan Jordan, executive director of Amala Foundation. "We begin the day by kids sharing songs of humanity and peace about their culture and country just like we do here at the walk."

The Texas-based foundation has been joining with prisoners for the last six years in an annual walk-a-thon fundraiser sponsored by The Work and Kid CAT.

The Work helps prisoners learn critical thinking skills—to become aware of "self-talk" and to reframe thinking errors that impact one's emotional well-being and behavior.

Kid CAT primarily consists of lifers who committed their crimes as juveniles. The program has a transformative curriculum and programs designed to give back to the community.

Each year the prisoners, many earning as little as 18 cents per hour, donate more than \$1,000 in support of a global peace summit.

"Raising money is the right thing to do," said Ivan Gonzalez Velasquez, 20, who is serving a 10-year sentence. "Nobody wants to see kids suffer so it's important that we all get involved to make sure they



Photo by Borey Ai

The start of the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Amala Walk at San Quentin

don't."

As the walkers circled the Lower Yard, much of the conversation between the prisoners and Amala personnel included stories about each other's affect on the community.

"In today's world there is a lot of separation," Jordan said. "We unite youth from all walks of life, different religions, races, and we recognize that we are all human beings."

Amala assistant Cranston "Breez" Smith has been to all six walk-a-thons. He is a hip-hop artist who entertains the walkers along with prisoner Antwan "Banks" Williams. This year, Breez brought another Texan hip-hop artist, Darrion "Chi" Borders.

"Breez has been very clutch for me in my life," Chi said. "We're like brothers. We're serving together in our community. Our hip-hop is affecting people in a positive way. We're putting a dent in the world in a good way. It cannot be done in fear," he added, "I commend you all for stretching your brains and going past the walls and looking into the world. That's magic to me."

Banks, 28, who has been incarcerated since age 18, spoke about the difficulties of growing up in prison.

"How can you take a broken seed, put it in a broken system and expect a rose," Banks said. "I still feel like 18, but the reality is that I'm in a place where I have to better myself."

The walkers took breaks and gathered around a makeshift stage on the yard. Host, Rodney Capell, introduced artists who performed poetry, music and

prayers for peace.

Each year the hundreds of participants join hands, making a wide circle that takes up the entire Lower Yard. The process usually takes several minutes, as Vanessa Stone, founder of Amala Foundation, encourages everyone to "reach out to the person next to you" and "let the power that's inside you, that cannot be imprisoned, give

thanks to the day."

"Be united for the sake of children," Stone says, "Without your soul saying yes to this, it would not be possible."

"This is medicine. It's time to drink in the power of life," Stone said after the circle was complete.

After countless laps lasting into late afternoon, the black-shirted visitors went inside a

building on the Lower Yard with dozens of white-shirted prisoners for a conversation centered on what had been taken away from the event.

Their meeting began with a Haka performed by prisoners Reggie Hola, Upumoni Ama and Anouthinh Pangthong.

Haka is a rhythmic dance, spoken in Hawaiian and performed in traditional custom. It uses dramatic movements with aggressive facial expressions.

"Today's presentation is in honor of the youth coming in," Ama said. "Haka is a pre-battle presentation, but the one given today is in honor of the youth. No one has to fear being attacked," he said jokingly. "It's just hyper-masculine."

Prisoners Gino Sevacos and Dwight Krizman then performed a song with a chorus sing-along, "Love is reaching out to touch somebody."

During the sing-along, prisoner Wayne "Belize" Villafranco hopped up and began dancing, which enticed others to follow, until everyone joined in dance while singing the chorus.



Photo by Borey Ai

Past and present Amala members on the Lower Yard stage

## What individuals took from the day:

Kara of Amala: On the outside, to be a human being, we're disconnected. People are so much into their devices. Even though we all take different paths and take the hard way, it's still good coming here and witness people being vulnerable. At first, I was afraid of my own judgments, but it was completely blown away and that was healing. Each one of you has helped me open my heart and I can feel the work that you are doing as spiritual warriors.

Prisoner Richie Morris told the Amala visitors: Don't let anyone tell you that you are the future. You are the present. Live for the present.

Prisoner Jim Kitlas: This is something you'll never see at another prison. I worked my way down to level II (medium-security) so that I could find this type of program. Here, I don't have to put up a front. I could be the person I am. I can say that I'm happy here. This is probably the best day I've had in prison.

A tearful Solomon of Amala: Freedom. That's what I'm taking out. Everyone that I've spoken to and connect with helped me understand freedom.

Prisoner Gary Harrell: Every day is a good day with me. If you tell yourself beautiful things, then beautiful things will happen.

Prisoner Juan Carlos Meza: The people from the outside really need to know your affect on us. There's a guy who spent six years in the hole I've talked to and you made him a better person. He wants to know what the free people get out of coming in here.

A tearful Ben of Amala: I live a very isolated life. I want to thank you for being; that's amazing to me.

Chi of Amala: I represent the youth as it is today. I'm at risk. I'm on thin ice. Slip left and I could be under. I came in this prison, understanding that I represent those who could be. So, I came into this place with no fear and I feel embraced. Everyone looked me in the eyes when they spoke to me.

Sandra of Amala: First walk. I knew it would be about connection, but didn't know the impact. There were treasure boxes of brilliance. If I could carry anything out you gave me the gift of hope. We work so hard to prevent youth being incarcerated. But in here your souls are not incarcerated. It's profound coming in here; letting me know what I have to do.

John Winham thanked Stone for allowing his son to attend his third summit.

"He looks so much forward for spending the time with Amala," a tearful Windham said.

The Amala Foundation is holding its Fourth Annual Global Youth Summit in Foresthill, California, on June 14-21.



Photo by Borey Ai

Participants and Amala members joins hands for the annual Lower Yard circle