

# San Quentin News

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## Lt. Gov. Newsom Supports Repealing Death Penalty

By Miguel Sifuentes  
Journalism Guild Writer

In late July, California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom voiced his support for the ballot measure that would repeal the death pen-

alty in California. Newsom said the policy did not deter crime and was fundamentally immoral.

Proposition 62 would abolish a system “that is administered with troubling racial disparities,” he said.

“(I)...believe that decades from now, like with so many other once-contentious issues, America will look back at the death penalty as an archaic mistake...Elected leaders owe it to themselves and to their constituents to speak up and speak out — regardless of political consequences.”

Proposition 62 would replace death as the punishment for first degree murder with life in prison without the possibility of parole. On Nov. 8, voters will also weigh a competing measure to speed up the execution process.

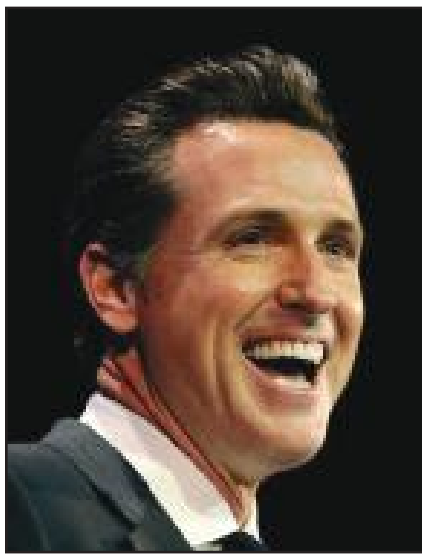


Photo by Jae C. Hong/AP

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom

## Mock Election Draws Huge Turnout

The men on San Quentin’s Death Row overwhelmingly favor Hillary Clinton for President over Donald Trump. In a mock election, the former secretary of state won 64 percent of the vote, compared to Trump’s 15 percent, and the remainder divided among Libertarian and Green candidates.

The election, which captured votes from 107 of the 747 men on San Quentin’s Death Row, is believed to be the most comprehensive survey of condemned men’s opinions — on any topic — ever done.

In other results, almost 57 percent of condemned men voted to end capital punishment.

What’s remarkable is that the condemned population is substantially less enthusiastic about ending capital punishment than the mainline inmate population. In the mock vote, 87 percent of general population inmates who voted support ending capital punishment.

UC Berkeley student Adriana Dinolfo, fellow Cal student Libby Rainey and Berkeley Journalism Professor William J. Drummond supervise the ballot stations on the prison’s Lower Yard on Aug. 13 and 22. Of the 4,887 mainline population prisoners, 504 ballots were cast.

See *Mock Election* on Page 6



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Steve Lacerda with White House Adviser Valerie Jarrett

## White House Adviser Visits San Quentin’s Coding Program

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

Recently, Facebook founder, Mark Zuckerberg, had a conversation with senior White House Adviser Valerie Jarrett to talk about the public’s benefit from a computer coding program at San Quentin State Prison.

“One of the reasons I came here is to learn directly from you the impact this program is having on your lives,” Jarrett said while standing in front of about two dozen inmates in the prison’s program, called Code.7370.

When a government sector, like California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), teams up with the private sector, a program for the incarcerated, such as Code.7370, is possible, according to Jarrett.

“That’s a win-win for the public,” Jarrett said.

Code.7370 is a collaboration between Hack Reactor, CDCR, and CALPIA, along with Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti — Silicon Valley venture capitalists, co-founders of an inmate entrepreneurship training pro-

gram, The Last Mile (TLM).

Established in 2010, TLM invites successful technology and business professionals to work with inmates and “help bridge the gap between the penal system and the technology sector,” according to a CALPIA press release.

“It’s a win because the employer gets to see the people and the potential that the incarcerated have and their willingness to return to society and fill important roles in the workplace,” Jarrett said.

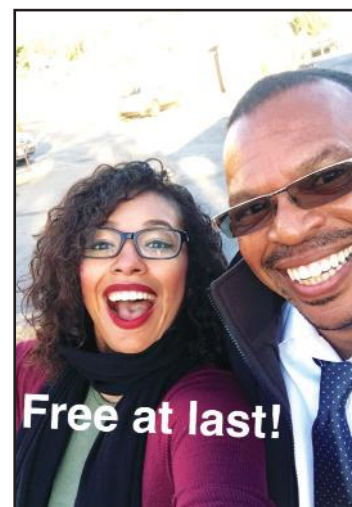
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## A Look Back at Aly Tamboura’s Legacy and Accomplishments

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Associate Editor

Earlier this month, Aly Tamboura regained his freedom after 12 years of incarceration for assault. To say he is rehabilitated would be an understatement because, as it is sometimes said, “all felons are not created equally.” Tamboura, 50, did not serve a life sentence, so he could have sat around, done nothing and paroled from prison the way he entered, or worse. Instead, he strained tirelessly to change his life by taking advantage of every conceivable opportunity to redeem himself.

“My aunt told me when I came to prison that I would never have this kind of time to focus on improving myself,” Tamboura said. “I earned a college degree; I learned to write computer code. I did all



Courtesy of Aly Tamboura

Aly Tamboura

this so I could go directly into a job.”

Tamboura was successful before prison, so he knew exactly what to do when he arrived, which was to excel at everything he set his mind on. “Coming to prison at my age,

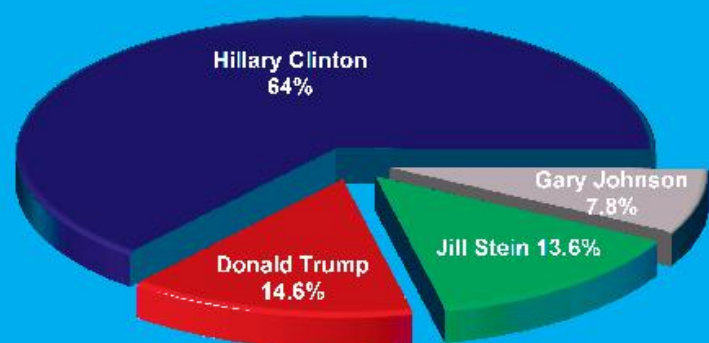
gangs and malefactors couldn’t influence me,” said Tamboura.

Tamboura was the class valedictorian when he received his Associate of Arts degree from Patten College in 2014. He also participated in creative writing and completed GRIP (Guiding Rage Into Power) and The Last Mile, an entrepreneurial training program, where he came up with the idea for Verisite, a company that creates underground, digitized maps for mobile devices.

Tamboura is the former owner of Subdynamic Locating Services, Inc., a geotechnical company that located underground utilities and structures. He incorporated his work experience and knowledge to expand his horizons. His talents did not go unnoticed by the prison’s Education Department.

See *Aly Tamboura* on Page 4

## Death Row 2016 Presidential Mock Election



Courtesy of San Quentin News

Mock election results from Death Row



**INSIDE EDITION #85**

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# How LVN Magnolia Datu Learned That Crying Is Against the Rules

By Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer

Courage is many things. Sometimes it's facing your prejudices to discover there's nothing to fear; sometimes it's joking when you are hemmed in by razor wire and regulations; and sometimes it's finding other ways to cry when crying over the suffering of another human being is against the rules.

Magnolia Datu's job takes courage. She is a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) working in the oldest prison in California, San Quentin. She brings medical relief to "the guys," as she calls the men in blue, but she feels challenged by a prison environment that she feels discourages her from being herself.

"I knew two brothers in North Block," she said, recounting a time when her humanity came into conflict with prison policies. "I still had a hospital belief that it was okay to cry for your patients. So I went to see him, and he was soaked in urine.

"I changed the bed sheets myself even though he wasn't my charge," Datu continued. "They moved him back to North Block. When he died, I was crying in his cell and the officers pulled me out and told me I can't do that.

"You have to treat everybody the same," Datu said, recalling the officer's words. "So I had to change my attitude, hold my feelings.

"They tell you — or you have to tell yourself — that these guys are inmates, so you can't show emotions for them. I don't remember them saying why we couldn't show emotions."

One way that Datu asserts her individuality is that she goes by her first name, Magnolia. "When I first got here, they told me to introduce myself with my last name, but I don't like that. I like to use my first name. That's how I introduce myself to people."

Datu emigrated from the Philippines with her father,



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Licensed Vocational Nurse Magnolia Datu

mother, and six older siblings. She used to work at St. Mary's Hospital, and before she came to interview for her current job in March 2007, she didn't know that San Quentin was a prison.

"I drove up to the gate, and I thought, 'Oh, the police are here.'" Datu said she didn't really think about the implications of working at a prison until she was in her orientation group walking through the prison. "The guys were walking around, and I was like this" — Datu flinches, twisting sideways where she sat at her desk to demonstrate her initial reaction. "I was scared somebody was going to jump on me from behind."

"I was just scared the first week," she continued. "Then it wasn't scary. After a week, I

was joking because these guys are my patients."

Datu said she loves her job, partly because it takes care of her family. "I tell my family I go to work to rest. I sit here 50 percent of the time. At home, I have to wash clothes and stuff and I get tired. Here, it's easy compared to St. Mary's where I had to give bedside care."

Datu said she's learned a lot at San Quentin, especially from the men in blue. "I like when they tell their stories about what they go through in here, and then you finally put your feet in their shoes.

"I feel bad because a lot of guys —" Datu said before pausing. She looked up, seeming to gather her thoughts. "You learn not to judge. I learned that in the first few months."

## Trying to Help His Victim's Family

By David B. Le  
Journalism Guild Writer

A drunk driver is raising money for the family of the man he killed, KABC reported.

Tyler Thompson, now 26, was driving drunk on the wrong side of Freeway 210 in Asuza when he killed 19-year-old Justin Romo in August 2014. Though Thompson initially pleaded not guilty, he later changed his plea to no contest and apologized to Romo's family in court, KABC said.

"I pray I could change places and be the one gone," Tina

Thompson recalls her son telling the court. "It was crazy, in this courtroom the judge was crying," she said.

Tyler Thompson was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

With his family's help, Thompson set up a GoFundMe page for the Romo family. Thompson said his goal wasn't to make restitution, but to uplift the Romo family and warn

others about the dangers of drunk driving.

Lupe Garcia, the victim's mother, said she was overwhelmed and moved by Thompson's efforts to help her family and bring awareness to all families affected by drunk driving.

Garcia said she has forgiven Thompson. "I gave it to God. I said, 'Tyler Thompson is all yours,'" she said.

**Correction to last month's issue:**

The article *The Mask We Live In* was inaccurately titled. The correct title is *The Mask You Live In*.

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



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

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

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1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964

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

**Behind the Scenes**

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# Clinton Opposes Death Penalty...With an Exception

By Forrest Lee Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton are holding slightly different positions on abolishing the death penalty as this country heads into the presidential election.

Shortly after the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Furman v. Georgia* abolishing the death penalty, the Democratic Party incorporated into its platform a decision to do away with the death penalty on the grounds that it was "an ineffective deterrent to crime" and "unequally applied, amounting to cruel and unusual punishment," reports Adam Wisnieski of *The Crime Report*.

Several platforms following that decision did not mention

or support death sentences until this year.

In June of this year, the Democratic Party created a new policy with similar language from 1972 abolishing the death penalty, which was part of its party platform in their July 2016 Democratic Convention, Wisnieski said.

However, presidential nominee Hillary Clinton has taken a slightly different position on the issue. In one of her primary debates this year, she stated that the death penalty should be reserved for people who commit heinous crimes associated with terrorism, says the *Report*.

"There has been a sea change in the public view of the death penalty," says Robert Dunham, executive director of the Death Penalty In-

formation Center, a nonprofit advocacy group that opposes the death penalty.

But not all her views are contrary to her party's and the public's evolving opinion on this issue. In a town hall meeting in Columbus, Ohio, last March she said, "I would breathe a sigh of relief if either the Supreme Court or the states themselves began to eliminate the death penalty."

The people of the state of California will have a chance to do just that this November. Proposition 62 is an initiative that would repeal the death penalty as a maximum punishment for persons found guilty of murder and replace it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

This change on the death penalty is becoming a national

trend, and Clinton's position has dramatically shifted from the "tough on crime" of the 1980s and 1990s, a time when being opposed to the death penalty was "political suicide," Dunham said.

"You could not hold that position and win a national election," Dunham says. "That is unquestionably no longer the case." In fact, (during the Democratic primaries) support for the death penalty was a political liability."

Even law-and-order conservative state politicians in Utah and Nebraska are considering abolishing their death penalties. Nebraska's state legislature voted to scrap their death penalty in 2015 and even overrode their governor's veto. The legislation will be presented to voters in November.

Moreover, studies reveal that public executions have fallen since Bill Clinton's presidency, from 98 prisoners in 1999 down to 28 in 2015. A state-by-state study shows 15 executions this year compared to 28 in 2015 (13 in Texas, six in Missouri, five in Georgia, two in Florida, one in Oklahoma and one in Virginia). Some of the reasons behind these changes are exoneration of innocent people, high cost of executions, shortage of lethal injection drugs and its ineffectiveness in deterring crime, says the report.

Legal Analyst says this shift in the Democratic platform was influenced by Hillary Clinton's former rival, Bernie Sanders.

"I would rather have our country stand side-by-side



Courtesy of www.twitter.com

Hillary Clinton

with European democracies rather than with countries like China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and others who maintain the death penalty," Sanders said.

Prof. Laurie Levensen of Loyola Law School agrees with Sanders.

"I think (the platform's call to abolish the death penalty) probably is Bernie's influence, and I don't think it's a bad thing," Levensen said. "I think the death penalty is a discussion that has to be had and is being discussed in states."

Clinton's stand on the death penalty diverges from that of her rival Republican nominee, Donald Trump.

Levensen says Clinton has been able to create a distinction between herself and Trump, who is "much more of a hardliner," Levensen said.

However, Levensen points out, "While capital punishment appears unlikely to be a wedge issue in the election, a new domestic terrorist attack could push it back on the national agenda."

## Voters to Decide on Two Opposing Death Penalty Measures in November

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

California voters will decide again in November what to do with the death penalty. Two opposing initiatives with strong political and social ramifications will be on the ballot to abolish capital punishment or speed up executions.

Details of the measures are listed in an Aug. 12 story by [politifact.com](http://politifact.com).

Proposition 62 would repeal the death penalty as maximum punishment for persons found guilty of murder and replace it with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

The initiative would apply retroactively to persons already sentenced to death, according to a July press release from the California legislative analyst and director of finance. It further states

that persons found guilty of murder and sentenced to life without possibility of parole must work while in prison as prescribed by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

All persons sentenced to life without the possibility of parole would pay 60 percent of wages earned to any victim restitution fines or orders against them, the release noted.

They estimated the reduction in state and local government costs to be around \$150 million annually within a few years due to the elimination of the death penalty.

Proposition 66 is aimed at eliminating lengthy delays between sentencing and executions. It would change procedures governing state court appeals and petitions challenging death penalty convictions and sentences.

It would designate Superior Courts for initial petitions and would limit successive petitions. This initiative would impose time limits on state court death-penalty review. It would also require appointed attorneys who take non-capital appeals to accept death penalty appeals.

California's other voter-approved measures relating to the death penalty would become null and void if this measure receives more affirmative votes. The analysis says the fiscal impact on state and local government could be potentially increased by tens of millions of dollars annually for several years related to direct appeals and habeas corpus proceedings, with the fiscal impact of such costs being unknown in the longer run.

CDCR could potentially save tens of millions of dollars annually, the reports.

## Court Rules Parole Board Must Set Base Terms for Lifers Early On

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

The state parole board must continue to set base terms at a life prisoner's first hearing, a California appellate court ruled in a settlement July.

The decision was in response to the board's request earlier this year to be relieved of its obligations to do so because of changes in the state penal code.

"By requiring the board to calculate the base and adjusted base term at the initial parole hearing rather than after the grant of parole, the settlement... better assure(s) life prisoners will not suffer constitutionally excessive punishment," the court said in denying the request.

All life-with-parole sentences have minimums set by law, but a base term measures the severity of a life prisoner's crime and sets a sentence that is proportionate to the offense. For ex-

ample, an inmate could have a minimum term of 15 years, but a base term of 21 years.

The practice was designed to prevent unjustly long sentences. The board used to defer setting those terms until after parole was granted. This meant that an inmate could end up serving 30 years even though his base term was significantly less.

In 2011, prisoner Roy T. Butler filed a petition claiming that the board's practice violated his constitutional rights. In December 2013, the board settled the case, agreeing to calculate base terms for all life prisoners with the possibility of parole at their initial parole hearing.

But since then, the board stopped calculating the terms for offenders who are eligible for youth offender or elderly review because they are released immediately once the parole decision has become final, regardless of the time remaining in their base terms.

After a recent change in the state law expanded that practice to all life prisoners granted parole, the board asked the court on Jan. 28 to relieve it of the responsibility to set base terms.

In the latest ruling, the Court of Appeals denied the board's request.

"(T)he only limitation on the Board's discretion to deny parole is the cruel and/or unusual punishment provisions of the federal and state constitutions, the application of which is assisted by the term-fixing requirements specified in the settlement," the court stated.

Presiding Justice J. Anthony Kline authored the opinion for the court. Kline was the main guest at the *San Quentin News* forum on Aug. 12. He served six years as legal affairs secretary for Gov. Jerry Brown and was appointed to the San Francisco Superior Court in 1980 and to the California Court of Appeals for the First District in 1982.

## California's Death Row Population Tops All Of Western Hemisphere

California is "home to the largest Death Row population in the Western Hemisphere," according to a recent *PolitiFact* press release.

According to public data, California's Death Row has nearly 750 individuals condemned to die. That's nearly twice as many as the next closest state, Florida at 388. UC Berkeley law professor Frank Zimring says it ranks behind only a handful of countries, including China and Iran.

Many experts claim the state's condemned population is primarily the product of a court system that fails to provide prisoners with enough legal help. Accordingly, death penalty appeals are backlogging the courts; the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) declares that executions have been on hold in California since 2006 following a legal challenge to the state's three-chemical lethal injection method.

Come this November, Californians will decide either to

abolish or possibly speed up the death penalty. Proposition 62 would eliminate capital punishment, replacing it with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole as the state's maximum punishment for those found guilty of murder. Proposition 66 would keep the death penalty but proposes a faster appeals process.

"Most of the Western Hemisphere has abolished the death penalty. Apart from the United States, the retentionist countries are Cuba, Guatemala and Guyana and a couple of countries in the Caribbean. None of them have Death Rows that are remotely the size of California's or even Florida's," said Robert Dunham, director of the DPIC.

California has executed only 13 people since it reinstated the death penalty in 1978. The last execution was in 2006. Coincidentally, it's the third leading reason of death on the row behind natural causes and suicide.

—Charles David Henry



# Hunger Strike Aims to Improve Conditions In Re-entry Homes

By Forrest Lee Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

A former guard who worked at an Ocean View re-entry facility (one of two San Diego halfway homes operated by Corrections Corporation of America), is leading a hunger strike to protest the deplorable conditions in those homes, reported Madison Pauly in *Mother Jones* magazine.

Both halfway houses were purchased for \$36 million in 2013 by CCA and kept under their original title and reputable name, "Correction Alternatives," said Pauly.

A former guard of the facility, Mark Bartlett, said the change has degraded the conditions of the homes. "The transition was ridiculous," said Bartlett. "Whether it's with cutting staff on payroll, cutting food, the lack of nutrition, cutting programming."

Bartlett and a group of activists, along with some inmates, are calling for San Diego County and state and federal government end contracts with CCA. Bartlett is refusing to eat until those demands are met, reported Pauly.

After Bartlett began making complaints to CCA of forged

documents, of searches and falsifying hours on time cards the situation became so complicated, Bartlett took a stress leave due to his PTSD being elevated, wrote Pauly.

Because Bartlett was without documentation to support his claim, he is demanding auditing records from the federal Bureau of Prisons' Ocean View facility, any complaints filed against the facility with the San Diego police and fire departments and any emergency calls. He also demanded official records of staffing levels, use of narcotics, sanitation and medical records to substantiate his

complaint.

San Diego facilities are "appropriately staffed," and their staffing patterns are approved by public agencies, says Jonathan Burns, CCA's spokesperson.

Catherine Mendonca, an activist who is protesting with Bartlett for failure of CCA to fulfill its obligations to help inmates re-enter into society, said, "If they're getting proper nutrition, if they're getting opportunities to actually get a job—all of these are actually questionable. Is this actual rehabilitation? Or is this something to profit off the backs of

those incarcerated?"

CCA, the second-largest private prison operating in the country, leases Ocean View to local, state and federal jails to house inmates. CCA is also the owner of the Boston Avenue federal re-entry facility and the Otay Mesa Detention Facility in San Diego, a 1,500-bed immigration detention center.

CCA owns and operates 25 halfway houses where inmates are typically housed who are nearing the end of their term. Some are allowed to go outside of the facility to work, and others are enrolled in employment and vocational training.

## White House

Continued from Page 1

Correctional Industries Programs Code.7370, which is part of CALPIA's Career Technical Education Program, belongs to a portfolio of 13 CALPIA specialized programs that have a cumulative recidivism rate of under 7.13%.

Jarrett said the White House is interested in exploring programs that use best practices and funding what works in rehabilitation. She suggested, however, that teaching high-skill trades, like computer coding, in high schools would be a better allocation of resources.

"If you just looked at it from an economic standpoint, this makes more sense than spending \$80 billion a year on prisons and jails," Jarrett said. "We have 5 percent of the world's population and 25 percent of the prison population. People need to see the real impact that this is having on our lives."

"President Obama has made criminal justice reform a top

priority," she added.

President Obama has issued more pardons than the last three presidents combined and reviews every one of them. And the public sentiment has been "overwhelmingly positive," Jarrett said.

Jarrett told the coding students about a letter President Obama received from a federal judge who said how troubled he became after giving a man a life sentence because of mandatory minimum sentencing. The judge wrote that he

was haunted every night by the decision. The judge went on to say that, after the pardons started, he kept looking for the man's name on the list of pardons. It was only after he read that the man was pardoned that he was able to get a good night's sleep.

"I think it's because we're able to tell these stories and make them human," Jarrett said, referring to the reason for the pardons. She added, "The best objective is to change the way we sentence people to

these unjust sentences."

A coding student asked Jarrett about the White House's position on whether employers should ask about felony convictions on job applications. She said President Obama strongly supports a federal law banning the practice, called Ban-the-Box.

"We asked employers to take a pledge to not ask," Jarrett said. "More than 120 companies broadly across the country, from Coca-Cola to Uber, have taken the pledge. One major company de-stigmatized the practice by saying 'we welcome returning citizens.'"

Another student asked what advice she has for those who have served long sentences.

She said it's crucial that people have an awareness of how the world has changed while they were in prison. "Going through the process by yourself is hard. I would encourage you to connect with the people who have been where you are. Don't try to do it by yourself."

Jarrett said President Obama wants to work on strategies that stop people from getting into the criminal justice sys-

tem in the first place.

"In the courtroom, he's focused on what we can do to reduce mandatory minimum sentencing. And in the cell blocks, what we can do to give people the tools they need to be successful when they are returned to the community and give them the motivation to learn these kinds of skills."

"The more the private sector is able to see these kinds of programs, and understand that investing in the kind of things that meets their needs, the more they are willing to hire."

Finally, a student asked Jarrett about President Obama's future plans.

"It's too soon to find out what he'll do after he's out of office," Jarrett said. "However, he's redefining what it means to be a lame-duck president. People make mistakes, especially young people, and they deserve a second chance. He's going to speak out on issues that he cares a lot about. He'll be the first to tell you that he's made a lot of mistakes when he was young, but he grew up in a very forgiving environment, Hawaii."



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

White House Adviser Valerie Jarrett and Aly Tamboura

## Aly Tamboura

Continued from Page 1

"Principal (Ted) Roberts came to the print shop one afternoon and pulled me aside," said Tamboura. "He asked me if I would like to start a prison newspaper. I explained that I had no idea how to run a newspaper, but I would think about it."

Tamboura said later Warden Robert Ayers Jr. visited the print shop and pitched his idea of starting a newspaper to the shop supervisor, John Wilkerson.

"I was terrified," said Tamboura. "The warden never said anything to me personally, but Ted and John pushed hard for me to be a part of the project."

Tamboura said at the time he believed the idea to be "a fool's errand," believing any inmate who would agree to run a newspaper in prison would be labeled a snitch at best, or worse victimized by other inmates. He is one of the original inmates who helped to resurrect *San Quentin News*.

"The men (inmates) had no clue about how to turn the machines on, let alone use the software to type, edit, and publish

text in a newspaper," Tamboura said. "Basically, if there was going to be a newspaper, I would have to do all of the computer work and the printing prep work."

Tamboura said he started by calling a friend who worked at Adobe to get a list of professional publishing software. He then wrote requests for quotations and filled out forms to purchase Adobe Creative Suites software and other tools, such as 10 portable Neo word processors, ink, paper, and other printing supplies.

"It was a tremendous amount of work and John left it all to me," Tamboura said. "The hardest part was earning trust with the administration and the inmate population."

"In the beginning we got hell from inmates and staff," Tamboura said. "Inmates felt the *News* was a mouthpiece for the administration and some guards thought it was an inmate rag. That changed because of the writing and the relevance of the articles."

"One of the things that got some guards involved was Sudoku. When they finished with the puzzle, they started reading," Tamboura said.

He noted Warden Ayers as-

sembled the team of retired journalists from the community: John Eagan, Joan Liseter, Steve McNamara, and Steve Cook. They guided the inmates in operating the newspaper. He said Eagan and the other advisers and Ayers were the only ones who believed the newspaper would work.

"We had meetings twice a month where it was becoming apparent that none of the prisoners who were writing articles understood how to write in journalistic style," said Tamboura. "I come from a technical background. Learning to write as a journalist from behind prison walls is challenging, to say the least."

Tamboura said he and then-Editor-in-Chief Kenny Brydon approached the director of the Prison University Project, Jody Lewen, and asked for help. He said she brought in Nigel Hatton from the Stanford University to teach a semester-long class on journalism. In subsequent years, Eagan taught weekly writing classes in the San Quentin Journalism Guild.

Over the years, Tamboura served the *News* as writer, layout designer and distributor. He also trained many of the men who have come and gone, in-

cluding current Editor-in-Chief Richard "Bonaru" Richardson, who started as a student in the print shop as an offset printing press operator.

"We didn't really like each other at first, but after a while we became good friends. In fact, all of us became friends," Tamboura said.

"Becoming a friend to Aly (Tamboura) has benefited me greatly in life," Richardson said. "I've learned extensive life and job skills from him that have been very valuable toward my growth as a person."

"I wouldn't be forthcoming if I didn't tell about all of the arguing that went on," said Tamboura, reflecting on how everyone had ideas on what direction the newspaper should go, discussing those opinions into intense disagreements.

"When I first met Aly (Tamboura), I thought he was too smart," said Arnulfo Garcia, executive editor of the *News*. "I didn't think I was going to be able to establish a good conversation with him. But over time, working with him in the print shop, I found that his knowledge was useful, not only to me but to other men around him."

For the last two years, Tamboura has been a student in

the Code.7370 program where prisoners learn computer coding. He used what he learned to single-handedly build the current *San Quentin News* website from scratch.

"I learned what it means to have integrity," said Tamboura. "It's something John Eagan always pushed: 'Write what you know and write the truth.'"

Tamboura said he is grateful and owes many of his accomplishments to the vision that Warden Ayers had for San Quentin. "He ran this prison more like a college campus and rehabilitation center. I really hope the current administration can look to things Ayers did to keep it going as a model for what prison should be."

He said he plans to take what he has learned and apply it to life. "Immediately upon my release, I'm going to work in San Francisco as an intern for The Last Mile." In January he will start school at a coding academy to strengthen what he has learned in prison. "If I complete these milestones, I have possible employment at a tech company."

Tamboura is starting a new chapter in life. He came to prison; he achieved and returned to society, debt paid.



# Keeping SQ Inmates Connected to Their Families

By Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer

There's an old maxim that behind every strong man stands a strong woman. The women of the San Quentin Inmate Family Council (IFC) are standing not behind but in the vanguard, keeping many men at San Quentin connected to their families.

IFC supports connections "between inmates and their families through improved communications, shared information, issue identification and problem resolution," according to its mission.

The IFC meets quarterly with San Quentin's Warden Ron Davis to discuss how to solve differences between correctional staff and incarcerated peoples' visitors.

"The biggest challenges are that we are continually going over what's already been established with the visiting room staff," said Arieta Daoust, Chairperson of IFC. "One problem we thought we solved is the delay in starting visiting at exactly 0730."

Daoust said when the visi-

tor processing line gets long, a third computer is supposed to open up. But, that doesn't always happen. She said when new staff are transferred into the visiting room they do not open the third computer which prolongs delays. They have to wait until the next warden's meeting to bring up the new-old problem.

Sam Johnson, the chairman of the Men's Advisory Council at San Quentin, said one of the main sources of inconsistent visiting room practices is the number of new officers continually assigned to the visiting room.

"When new staff arrives, they implement inappropriate policies because they don't understand what the rules are," Johnson said, talking about the recurrent challenges in the visiting room.

Another challenge is the delays in processing visitors, which causes frustration for incarcerated men and their families.

"My family waits an hour to get in," said Borey "Peejay" Ai. His family has been visit-

ing him at San Quentin for six years. "Then they wait another hour or two to get me into the visiting room."

"It's hell of discouraging," Ai continued. "My sister hates coming up here. I don't even want a visit sometimes because of what my mom and sister have to go through."

Ai said he planned to have his family contact the IFC about future frustrations.

While the 2015 San Quentin Inmate Family Council minutes acknowledged that the officers working in the often short-staffed visiting room do their best individually to get processing done in a timely manner, the minutes also reflect solutions exist to minimize delays in visitor processing. This includes developing and implementing procedures when the X-ray machines break down, using all computers for visitor check-ins and additional training for visiting room staff.

Inconsistent policy implementation concerning attire is another source of frustration for incarcerated men and their families.

"It's the discretion of the person processing the visitors. If they feel that clothes are inappropriate, even if the person has worn it 20 times before," Daoust said. "It's hard to set a consistent standard when each person has a different standard. If it's OK this week, why is it not the next week? The clothes we wear are a lot more conservative than the free staffers who work at the prison."

Vernon Britten, whose family visits him twice a month, told a similar story. He said the female members of his family often feel discouraged by what is permitted regarding dress policies.

"It makes it more difficult for my family to feel comfortable," Britten said. "My mom is 77 years old, and one sergeant tells her that her pants are too tight. Come on, man, she's 77 years old."

Studies have found a correlation between improved family relationships and public safety.

There is a positive relationship between regular family visits and phone calls and reduced recidivism and re-entry

success, according to a 2015 report by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. Some advocates of prison reform believe that an increase in successful re-entry will translate into three public benefits: more dollars in the economy from formerly incarcerated people joining the work force, fewer tax dollars spent on incarceration, and fewer cases of re-victimization.

Another study, by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, examined the effects of parental incarceration on more than 5 million U.S. children. It found that having an incarcerated parent is as traumatic as domestic violence and divorce, but "families who were able to stay in regular contact were also more likely to report that family relationships became stronger."

The San Quentin IFC continues to meet with Warden Davis to identify solutions to the problems incarcerated men and their families face.

The public can contact IFC by email: sqifc2016@gmail.com

—Juan Haines  
contributed to this story

## Sanchez Blasts Obama for Harris Endorsement

By Miguel Sifuentes  
Journalism Guild Writer

Orange County Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez blasted President Obama for endorsing her rival in California's U.S. Senate race. She accused him of being part of the "entrenched political establishment" that has failed California voters.

President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in late July announced they are endorsing state Attorney General Kamala Harris in California's historic Democrat-vs.-Democrat U.S. Senate race.

Harris is a longtime ally of the president. He praised Harris as a "lifelong courtroom prosecutor" who would be "...a fearless

fighter for the people of California — all the people of California — every single day."

For Sanchez, the other Democratic candidate, the endorsements are a clear rejection and an added political obstacle. Sanchez has served in Congress for two decades.

In a statement from her campaign, she called Harris' record

as attorney general "troubling." She unleashed an array of her most pointed criticisms to date, but they may garner less attention in the current endorsement shuffle.

Sanchez said she was "disappointed" that Obama picked sides in a race between Democrats. He should instead be focused on defeating Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, she added.

"California's Senate seat does not belong to the political establishment. It belongs to the People of California, and I believe California voters will make their own independent choice."

Harris has received a string of major endorsements recently. She's the candidate of choice for the Democratic Party's power elite and for the left's most influential interest groups.

Harris was already endorsed by Gov. Jerry Brown, the California Democratic Party, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

Sanchez supporters expressed dismay that the administration would choose sides in this intra-party contest.

"(W)e have two strong, qualified women of color, and it is unfortunate that instead of letting the voters decide, the Democratic Party along with President Obama are picking sides," said Martin Diego Garcia, director of the Campaign for Latino Victory Fund, a political action committee that supports Latino candidates.

Sanchez finished a distant second in the June primary with 19 percent of the vote, with Harris getting 40 percent. Harris easily won in a large field of candidates.

Harris also has more than a 3-to-1 advantage over Sanchez



Courtesy of www.wikipedia.org

Loretta Sanchez

in fundraising. The attorney general also held a 15-point lead over Sanchez in the latest Field poll.

The two Democrats will square off in the November election. This will be the highest-profile contest between two members of the same party since California adopted a top-two primary system.

Harris' connection to Obama goes back more than a decade to when she was the San Francisco district attorney. She raised money for Obama when he ran for the U.S. Senate in Illinois and later served as the California co-chair for his 2008 presidential campaign.

Due to that political allegiance, it would have been more surprising if Obama hadn't endorsed Harris, said John Hanna of Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, which supports Sanchez.

The Orange County congresswoman supported Hillary Clinton in her 2008 presidential campaign against Obama for the Democratic nomination, and that could also be a factor, Hanna said.

## CIW Puppy Program Inspires Hope and Love for Female Inmates

By Danielle Barcheers

At first glance many people are taken aback by the sight of inmates walking the prison yard at California Institution for Women (CIW) with a dog at their side. "What is going on?" they may wonder. Maybe you have wondered as well?

If you are willing to give a few minutes of your time, I will tell you a story about Sister Pauline's dream; a story of inspiration, hope and love.

The Prison Puppy Program was conceived out of a dream of a tenacious woman named Sister Pauline Quinn. Already a trail-blazer for many other prison training programs, Sister Pauline made a call to John Dovey, then warden of CIW, and then to Carol Roquemore, the CEO of Canine Support Teams, (CST) Inc. in 2002. Sister Pauline's persistence and her belief in the rehabilitative benefits for the inmates, and the assistance they could provide to the community was contagious! Along with Sister Pauline, John Dovey and Carol Roquemore also embraced the opportunity to foster the good that could come out of such a program, and the Prison Puppy Program was born.

In September 2002, CIW be-



Courtesy of CIW Inside View

Krinnie and Theo

came the first prison in the state of California to have a Service Dog Training Program. Fast forward 14 years and the inmate trainers continue to play a vital role in the training of service dogs for the disabled community. Approximately 85% of CST graduating dogs are trained at CIW.

While this is clearly a wonderful opportunity for CST, the rewards are very far reaching. To start, the inmates have become very talented trainers, which is a marketable skill, and they are building a resume of accomplishments while incarcerated. They have also learned valuable life skills. The rehabilitative nature of this program teaches team work, compassion, unconditional love, self-control, responsibility, boundary setting and giving of themselves to complete strangers.



Courtesy of CIW Inside View

Kelly and Garth

These incredible dogs do so much for their people once they are placed. They can open and close doors or drawers, they pull manual wheelchairs, turn on and off light switches, retrieve dropped or out of reach objects and assist with removal of clothing and shoes. These are just a few of the remarkable ways they assist their disabled person.

These dogs serve as "ice-breakers" for disabled individuals and provide a independence and unconditional love. The dogs are provided a forever home, unconditional love, companionship, appreciation, affection and purpose in life. The dogs become one half of a team and the very center of someone's world.

As far as dreams go, if you ask me, this sounds like a dream come true!



# League of Women Voters Back Expanded Voting Rights

By Forrest Lee Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

Voting is a right enshrined in the Constitution. Recent court decisions against laws restricting voting rights and a bill currently before the California legislature address a threat against those rights.

California's electorate in 1974 voted to end the denial of the right to vote for felons with lesser convictions, on the grounds that only people with serious offenses should not

have the right to vote, reports Helen Hutchison, president of the League of Women Voters of California, in a special article for the *Mercury News*.

The League of Women voters are proponents of this new bill, and Hutchison explains why they presented the amendment: "we knew that people who vote and participate in community life are more invested in turning their lives around and being productive citizens.

"A policy of lifelong disen-

franchisement does nothing to keep our neighborhoods safer. We also recognized that the burden of felony conviction, and therefore disenfranchisement, fell disproportionately on people of color."

Current law in the State of California denies voting rights only to those felons who have committed serious offenses. Some former secretaries of state in California disagreed with this policy and attempted to overturn it.

In 2011 the then secretary of

the State of California ended the right to vote for low-level, nonviolent felons incarcerated in county jails or living in communities under local supervision.

Three years later, the League of Women Voters won a decision in court that affirmed those felons' right to vote, resulting in the current secretary of state restoring the voting rights of more than 50,000 low-level, nonviolent offenders, Hutchison reports.

The League of Women Voters has presented a bill in the legislature to solidify that court ruling. "We are proud co-sponsors of AB 2466 (Shirley Weber), which will ensure a single statewide rule on voter eligibility and end recurrent litigation over the constitutional term 'imprisoned.'

"The bill will codify the court decision and make it clear that those convicted of low-level felonies in county jails do not lose their constitutional right to vote," said Hutchison.

She continued, "We rightly entrust our police with great powers to preserve order and help prosecute those who commit crimes. But after their job on the streets is done, should cops be involved

in deciding who can — and cannot — participate in our democracy?"

The legislation has the support of California Attorney General, Kamala Harris and Secretary of State Alex Padilla, local election officials and state and national organizations, says the article.

These groups recognize the damage that unfair and unconstitutional laws do, not only to minority communities, Hutchinson wrote, but also to our democracy. This is part of a national trend to restore the voting rights of people restricted by a criminal justice system contaminated by systematic racism.

The benefits of political participation for these voters are a reduction in recidivism and empowerment of our communities. Disproportionately denying people of color the right to vote is a subtle way of dismantling people of color of those rights, a practice that Californians must end, says the report.

Special-interest law enforcement groups oppose the bill without justification, and they fail to take into account that under existing law in the state of California, thousands of convicted felons are allowed to vote, says Hutchison.

## Assembly Bill Would Afford Voting Rights to Felons in Prison

By David Le  
Journalism Guild Writer

California Assemblywoman Shirley Weber proposed a bill that would give convicted felons voting rights while serving jail time, according to a *Los Angeles Times* editorial.

Weber introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 2466, which would allow convicted felons who are sentenced to the county jails to vote.

Supporters of the bill generally say that in the United States, Blacks have been target-

ed for criminal prosecution as a "tool for racial suppression" and disenfranchisement. Since people who commit crimes do not think about losing their voting rights beforehand, disenfranchisement does not deter crime or improve public safety, the *Times* wrote.

The thinking behind disenfranchisement is that a criminal who has violated society's rules loses his membership and the powers and privileges that go with it, according to the *Times*.

"By contrast, inmates in Maine and Vermont are permit-

ted to vote while locked up, and the practice does not appear to have had any corrosive effect on those societies," the *Times* said.

"In many states, even today, felons are disenfranchised permanently, even after they have done their time," the *Times* reports. Specifically, many states dominated by Republicans are concerned with the formerly incarcerated having voting rights, since many of them are Black and would help Democrats at the polls.

AB 2466 was signed into law by Gov. Brown on Sept. 28.

## Bakery Provides a Second Chance to the Formerly Incarcerated

By Wayne Boatwright  
Journalism Guild Writer

Giving second chances to the formerly incarcerated pays off for Richmond's Rubicon Bakery, reports Alix Wall in the *Jewish News Weekly of Northern California*.

In 2009, the Rubicon was a struggling business with a social mission to help low-income Bay Area residents with job training. It had 14 employees — most had

served time — but it was failing.

Andrew Stoloff had been in the restaurant business in the Bay Area for some 20 years. He was asked to help prepare the Rubicon for sale.

With an Ivy League MBA from Wharton Business School, Stoloff recognized the bakery's true potential. It was not just its now-famous cinnamon bread, frosted cream-filled cupcakes, cookies, brownies and blondies sold in local Whole Foods, An-

dronicos and New Leaf, but its employees.

"These were people who had made a very conscious decision and effort to change their lives, but [after] prison or drug treatment, it was really hard for them to find a job," Stoloff told Wall.

Instead of preparing the bakery for sale, Stoloff bought it. By getting to know the employees, he realized "no one wanted to give them a chance. But here [at Rubicon] they did, and I

saw what people did with that chance."

In just six years, the bakery has grown to more than 100 employees.

By offering a living wage, benefits, including paid vacation and sick leave, Stoloff said "our retention rate is considerably higher than the industry as a whole."

Responsive to his employees' needs, Stoloff implemented a loan program when he learned

that many of them were using local check-cashing companies (at very high interest rates). The Rubicon's program charges no interest and most employees pay back the loan within three months.

"I don't know what would have happened to us if it closed. I don't know who else would have hired me. I tell Andrew [Stoloff] that he saved my life," said Sheila Young-Eberhart, an employee of eight years.

## Mock Election

Continued from Page 1

"The men have important things to say," Dinolfo said. "Even though it doesn't officially count, I think that these men should be able to have expression, just as much as someone who can vote." Drummond added that participation in civic affairs is a big step toward accepting the responsibility of citizenship. "The prisoners have to start some place, and voting is an excellent place to begin, even if the results don't count."

Arnulfo T. Garcia, executive editor of *San Quentin News*, added, "When the idea first came up about creating a mock election for the men at San Quentin, it struck me how I never myself had the opportunity to vote until I was on the run in Mexico, when I went to the polls and voted for the president of Mexico (Vicente Fox). That gave me a sense of freedom and power that I know the men felt, walking up to the booth to cast their ballots."

The ballot selections for Presi-

dent included Hillary Clinton, Gary Johnson, Jill Stein and Donald Trump. Bernie Sanders received the most write-in votes with nine.

Kamala Harris held a big lead over fellow Democrat Loretta Sanchez for California's U.S. Senate seat.

Four propositions were on the ballot: Proposition 57, Gov. Jerry Brown's prison reform measure; Proposition 62 to end the death penalty, Proposition 64 to

legalize marijuana, and Proposition 66 to speed up the execution process.

Sixty-seven percent of condemned inmates voted "no" on Proposition 66, not wanting to speed up the execution process, while almost 80 percent of the general population inmates opposed speedier executions.

"I was surprised by the turnout," said *San Quentin News* staffer Rahsaan Thomas. "A lot of people were engaged. Some

people said this was the first time they voted in their lives. It was more than a mock election to them.

"One guy told others that this was a chance to be a part of the solution, and he brought people to vote by shaming them."

On the election days, *San Quentin News* staffer Emile DeWeaver walked around the Lower Yard, showing inmates where to vote.

DeWeaver acknowledged that

| General Population<br>2016 Election Results  |     |
|--|-----|
| Hillary Clinton:                             | 383 |
| Jill Stein:                                  | 43  |
| Donald Trump:                                | 38  |
| Gary Johnson:                                | 10  |
| Bernie Sanders:                              | 9   |
| Kamala Harris:                               | 342 |
| Loretta Sanchez:                             | 113 |
| <b>Proposition 62: Ending Death Penalty</b>  |     |
| Yes:   | 384 |
| No:  | 52  |
| <b>Proposition 66: Speedy Death Penalty</b>  |     |
| Yes:   | 72  |
| No:  | 277 |
| <b>Proposition 64: Legalizing Marijuana</b>  |     |
| Yes:   | 359 |
| No:  | 73  |
| <b>Proposition 57: Prison Reform Measure</b> |     |
| Yes:   | 447 |
| No:  | 15  |

| Death Row<br>2016 Election Results           |    |
|--|----|
| Hillary Clinton:                             | 66 |
| Donald Trump:                                | 15 |
| Jill Stein:                                  | 14 |
| Gary Johnson:                                | 8  |
| Bernie Sanders:                              | 0  |
| Kamala Harris:                               | 73 |
| Loretta Sanchez:                             | 23 |
| <b>Proposition 62: Ending Death Penalty</b>  |    |
| Yes:   | 60 |
| No:  | 43 |
| <b>Proposition 66: Speedy Death Penalty</b>  |    |
| Yes:   | 31 |
| No:  | 64 |
| <b>Proposition 64: Legalizing Marijuana</b>  |    |
| Yes:   | 82 |
| No:  | 15 |
| <b>Proposition 57: Prison Reform Measure</b> |    |
| Yes:   | 94 |
| No:  | 6  |

many of the people who came to the ballot station were uninformed and voted the way their friends did; nonetheless, he said, many were curious and used the opportunity to be heard.

Dinolfo added, "I think it was both very enlightening and sad because we talked to some people who never voted before. Then, there were the people who were excited about it and wanted to know more about the ballot initiatives. Several of them wanted to talk to us about everything on the ballot and wanted to know our opinion about them."

Ballot counters were Dinolfo and inmates Phil Phillips and Davontae Pariani.

"Some people marked the wrong place due to the layout of the ballot, so those ballots weren't counted," Pariani said. "The vote was counted only if the 'Yes' or 'No' box was clearly marked with a check, 'X', or circled. Surprisingly, there were a couple of ballots completely blank."

Pariani said there were several write-in votes for single candidates. Michelle Obama had two write-in votes.

—Juan Haines



# Farewell to Cherished Kid CAT Volunteer Hera Chan

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

## Kid CAT Speaks!

More than 50 San Quentin inmates gathered in a rustic trailer to honor and bid farewell to a cherished volunteer, Hera Chan.

"There are no words to describe the impact that she has had in our Kid CAT curriculum," said Cleo Cloman, lead Kid CAT facilitator. "Hera always shows up with a smile, and you will receive nothing less than genuine empathy and compassion from her."

Chan's reaction: "The difference between me and the men who are serving time in San Quentin is that I didn't get caught for the stupid things I did in my past. No one suspects an innocent young Chinese girl to do the things I did."

The July 31 gathering was prompted by Chan's decision to move to Canada with her family.

Self-described as a shy person who dislikes public speaking, Hera brings a reassuring

presence of acceptance, honesty, and compassion to both inmates and volunteers.

Kid CAT graduate Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll commented, "I didn't like the program in the beginning, but Hera was so genuine and real, that she broke down the barriers that I had. She encouraged me to be real and talk about feelings and emotions that I didn't want to talk about, all because she gave me the space that I needed."

Hera commented, "It makes me feel really good to hear that I am seen as being authentic and real."

Beyond reaching through emotional barriers, Hera enriched the lives of men through sharing cultural history of being a minority woman growing up in a society with which she didn't identify.

"Growing up being an immigrant in Vancouver was dif-

ficult. I was bombarded by so many different models to live by, and it messed me up," said Hera. "My parents didn't teach me who to become, so I went through a rebellious stage at a young age."

The power of Hera's own story is exemplified by the words of Somsak Uppasay, a graduate of the curriculum.

"I graduated out of Kid CAT almost a year ago, and when I heard that she was leaving, I needed to tell her how she has changed my whole perspective of women in our Asian culture."

"When she taught about how the Asian culture didn't respect women; she woke me up. At the time, I didn't have the courage to tell her I was sorry on behalf of Asian men, because I was guilty of it as well."

"Today, I just had to tell her how she impacted me with her story. After the class she taught,



Photo by Samuel Hearn

### Hera Chan

I called my mom and two younger sisters to apologize," Uppasay added.

Hera's journey to becoming a volunteer in San Quentin was paved by a wakeup call — after graduating from college she was told she had a tumor.

"I had to get surgery immediately; luckily it was benign," said Hera. "That's when I decided that I needed to take time to get to know myself."

After taking a year off to teach English in France, Hera returned with renewed spirit and a new direction.

"Once I came back, and did some soul-searching, I knew I wanted to do something about the criminal justice system; I wanted to get involved in some way."

"I decided to obtain a master's degree, and found CIIS (California Institute of Integral Studies) in San Francisco that offered a master's degree in Somatic counseling."

"While I was taking a class there, my teacher, Dr. Monique La Sarre, talked about the work

she did at San Quentin and I approached her about my interest, and she offered me an opportunity to get involved with Kid CAT.

"It's now been three years since I first came in here, and I feel so lucky to be given this opportunity," said Hera.

"One of the most important things I've learned from the people in San Quentin is that, if these men in these conditions, who are being told they are bad, not worthy of being in society or loved, if they can have hope, there is absolutely no reason I can't have hope in my life," said Hera.

"When I started volunteering here, I began praying, which I had never done before," said Hera. "Life has so much hope and I want people to know that."

"Working in San Quentin has inspired me to work in the San Francisco County Jail," said Hera. "Through the county jail, I learned the importance of keeping families connected. The worst thing incarceration does is ... it separates families, and it's through that separation that a lot of pain is created."

"Through this work, I hope to break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration, especially for children of incarcerated people."

She hopes to continue the work she has started here in the criminal justice system.

"I was talking to someone the other day, a friend said, 'Your life seems to revolve around working in San Quentin, or the county jail, or incarcerated mothers, fathers and children; it must be depressing.'"

"I said, 'Well, I guess, it can be depressing, but it was in the prisons and jails, with who I met, that I learned how to love, how to have hope.'"

## Anti-Recidivism Coalition Urges Voters to Support Prop. 57

Californians supporting rehabilitation and prison reform are being urged to register to vote in the November election and to support the Proposition 57 juvenile justice reform ballot measure.

That's the message in a letter from Scott Budnick, founder of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. He urges those affected by incarceration to get registered to vote on Nov. 8 for Proposition 57, also known as Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed criminal justice reform.

"As you know from your own experiences, mass incarceration has not just impacted those who sit in prison cells. You have also been impacted! Mothers, fathers... (significant others) are also affected... We're here to let you know that you are not alone, and you are not powerless!" said Budnick.

As a rallying cry to remind its supporters of the significance and power of coming together under the banner of creating policy change, Bud-

nick stated, "Due to your incredible work and the work of other community members, we gathered over 1 million signatures...which would give Californians the option to vote for the initiative (now known as Proposition 57) on the Nov. 8 ballot."

Proposition 57 calls for:

1. Taking away the power of district attorneys to direct-file youth into the adult system and giving that power back to judges;

2. Allowing those with non-violent crimes to be eligible for parole consideration before having to serve enhancements;

3. Allowing CDCR to set rehabilitation credits. In its regulations, CDCR could take credits down to 70 percent, 65 percent, 60 percent or better. ARC is pushing for 50 percent (day for day) good-time credits for everyone.

According to Budnick, "We are in the last and most important stage of the campaign in order to pass Proposition 57..."

It is extremely important that you do the following:

1. Register to vote;
2. Stay connected to ARC to find out updates on the Proposition 57 campaign;
3. Vote on Nov. 8."

Budnick encourages people to register to vote online at [www.arc-ca.org/prop-57](http://www.arc-ca.org/prop-57). The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 24. Those who register by mail must make sure the postmark is on or before that date.

"You may think that you have no voice or power to change this system. That is false! You have a strong voice, and your loved ones have voice and power through you! Speak up and speak out for your loved ones and yourself by registering to vote! Join with ARC, and vote in support of Proposition 57 on Nov. 8," Budnick says.

For more information, go to [www.arc-ca.org/prop-57](http://www.arc-ca.org/prop-57) or contact Bikila Ochoa at [BOchoa@antirecidivism.org](mailto:BOchoa@antirecidivism.org) or call (213) 955-5885.

—John Lam

## Dear Kid CAT

Thank you for the work that you are doing to share your stories and inspire change and hope for youth. As a public school educator working with teens I am heartened to read the *San Quentin News* and note the myriad ways inmates are using the power of voice and story to reach out to both incarcerated youth as well as teens on the outside who are struggling to find their voice and make a positive choices

In a group session with the inmates and other youth, one of my boys mentioned how he gravitates to rapping and writing when he is stressed or needs an outlet for his thoughts. This prompted a conversation about the therapeutic benefits of writing, and I was introduced to work of The Beat Within. The writing workshop models are such a powerful way to bring about restoration, healing and growth. The writing prompts not only give writers a way to access their thoughts and emotions, they also affirm the common thread of humanity we all share. I plan to use what I've learned from these programs to influence the way I teach and connect with students in my school, and will promote the work you are doing with other educators in our community.

I have been teaching for almost 15 years now, but what I've learned from the inmates who lead these programs has been the most valuable of all. I am grateful not only that programs like Kid CAT, SQUIRES and The Beat Within exist, but that they are radically influential and successful. Please keep up the restorative, education work that you are about. It is not going unnoticed.

With Appreciation,  
Caryn Bostrom

Kid CAT and The Beat Within hold monthly writing workshops. The Beat Within conducts writing workshops in juvenile detention centers throughout the country. Kid CAT Speaks will publish one topic each month. Your writing should reflect a positive message that may help the youth make a better decision in life. Your stories will be read by the youth in detention centers. If published, you will receive a free copy of the publication. Your story can make a difference. Tell The Beat Within you read about them in Kid CAT Speaks!

Words from the wise, quote of the month - Recently, NFL quarterback, Colin Kaepernick took a stand to stay on the bench (and most recently took a knee) while the national anthem was performed. His reason, "Ultimately it's to bring awareness and make people realize what's really going on in this country." "There are a lot of things that are going on that are unjust, people aren't being held accountable for, that's something that needs to change...this country stand for liberty, freedom, justice for all. And it's not happening for all right now." With that said, what are your thoughts on Kaepernick's decision? Or, tell us, have you ever taken a stand? Have you ever protested? For what?

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



# Proposition 57: THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 2016

## SECTION 1 TITLE

This measure shall be known and may be cited as "the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016."

## SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT

In enacting this Act, it is the purpose and intent of the people of the State of California to:

1. Protect and enhance public safety.
2. Save money by reducing wasteful spending on prisons.
3. Prevent federal courts from indiscriminately releasing prisoners.
4. Stop the revolving door of crime by emphasizing rehabilitation, especially for juveniles.
5. Require a judge, not a prosecutor, to decide whether juveniles should be tried in adult court.

## SEC. 3. SECTION 32 IS ADDED TO ARTICLE I OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION, TO READ

SEC. 32. (a) The following provisions are hereby enacted to enhance public safety, improve rehabilitation, and avoid the release of Prisoners by federal court order, notwithstanding anything in this article or any other provision of law.

(1) Parole consideration: Any person convicted of a non-violent felony offense and sentenced to state prison shall be eligible for parole consideration after completing the full term for his or her primary offense.

(A) For purpose of this section only, the full term for the primary offense means the longest term of imprisonment imposed by the court for any offense, excluding the imposition of an enhancement, consecutive sentence, or alternative sentence.

(2) Credit Earning: The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall have authority to award credits earned for good behavior and approved rehabilitative or educational achievements.

(b) The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall adopt regulations in furtherance of these provisions, and the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations shall certify that these regulations protect and enhance public safety.

## SEC. 4. JUDICIAL TRANSFER PROCESS

Section 602 and 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code are hereby amended.

Sections 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code are amended to read:

602. Except as provided in

Sections 707, any person who is under 18 years of age when he or she violates any law of this state or of the United States or any ordinance of any city or county of this state defining crime other than an ordinance establishing a curfew based solely on age, is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge person to be a ward of the court.

Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

707. (a)(I) In any case in which a minor is alleged to be a person described in Section 602 by reason of the violation, when he or she was 16 years of age or older, of any felony criminal statute, or of an offense listed in subdivision (b) when he or she was 14 or 15 years of age, the District Attorney or other appropriate prosecuting officer may make a motion to transfer the minor from juvenile court to a court of criminal jurisdiction. The motion must be made prior to the attachment of jeopardy. Upon such motion the juvenile, court shall order the probation officer to submit a report on the behavioral patterns and social history of the minor. The report shall include any written or oral statement offered by the victim pursuant to Section 656.2.

(2) Following submission and consideration of the report, and of any other relevant evidence that the petitioner or the minor may wish to submit, the juvenile court shall decide whether the minor should be transferred to a court of criminal jurisdiction. In making its decision, the court shall consider the criteria specified in subparagraphs (A) to (E) below. If the court orders a transfer of jurisdiction, the court shall recite the basis for its decision in an order entered upon the minutes. In any case in which a hearing has been noticed pursuant to this section, the court shall postpone the taking of a plea to the petition until the conclusion of the transfer hearing, and no plea that may have been entered already shall constitute evidence at the hearing.

(A)(i) The degree of the criminal sophistication exhibited by a minor.

(ii) When evaluating the criterion specified in clause (i) the juvenile court may give weight to any relevant factor, including, but not limited to, the minor's age, maturity, intellectual capacity, and physical, mental, and emotional health at the time of the alleged offense, the minor's impetuosity or failure to appreciate risks and consequences of criminal behavioral, the effect of familial, adult, or peer pressure on the minor's actions, and the effect of the minor's family and community envi-

ronment and childhood trauma on the minor's criminal sophistication.

(B)(i) Whether the minor can be rehabilitated prior to the expiration of the juvenile court's jurisdiction.

(ii) When evaluating the criterion specified in clause (i), the juvenile court may give weight to any relevant factor, including, but not limited to, the minor's potential to grow and mature.

(C)(i) The minor's previous delinquent history.

(ii) When evaluating the criterion specified in clause (i) the juvenile court may give weight to any relevant factor, including, but not limited to, the seriousness of the minor's previous delinquent history and the effect of the minor's family and community environment and childhood trauma on the minor's previous delinquent behavior.

(D)(i) Success of previous attempts by the juvenile court to rehabilitate the minor.

(ii) When evaluating the criterion specified in clause (i), the juvenile court may give weight to any relevant factor, including, but not limited to, the adequacy of the services previously provided to address to minor's needs

(E)(i) The circumstances and gravity of the offense alleged in the petition to have been committed by the minor.

(ii) When evaluating the criterion specified in clause (i), the juvenile court may give weight to any relevant factor, including but not limited to, the actual behavior of the person, the mental state of person, the person's degree of involvement in the crime, the level of harm actually caused by the person, and the person's mental and emotional development.

(b) Subdivision (a) shall be applicable in any case in which a minor is alleged to be a person described in Section 602 by reason of the violation of one the following offenses when he or she was 14 or 15 years of age:

(1) Murder.

(2) Arson, as provided in subdivision (a) or (b) of section 451 of penal Code.

(3) Robbery.

(4) Rape with force, violence, or threat of great bodily harm.

(5) Sodomy by force, violence, duress, menace, or threat of great bodily harm.

(6) A lewd or lascivious act as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 288 of the Penal Code.

(7) Oral copulation by force, violence, duress, menace, or threat of great bodily harm.

(8) An offense specified in subdivision (a) of Section 289 of the Penal Code.

(9) Kidnapping for ransom.

(10) Kidnapping for pur-

pose of robbery.

(11) Kidnapping with bodily harm.

(12) Attempted murder.

(13) Assault with a firearm or destruction device.

(14) Assault by any means or force likely to produce great bodily injury.

(15) Discharge of a firearm into an inhabited or occupied building.

(16) An offense described in Section 1203.09 of the Penal Code.

(17) An offense described in Section 2022.5 or 12022.53 of the Penal Code.

(18) A felony offense in which the minor personally used a weapon described in any provision listed in Section 16590 of the Penal Code.

(19) A felony offense described in Section 136.1 or 137 of the Penal Code.

(20) Manufacturing, compounding, or selling one-half ounce or more of a salt or solution of a controlled substance specified in subdivision (c) of section 11055 of the health and safety code.

(21) A violent felony, as defined in subdivision (c) of section 667.5 of the Penal Code, which also would constitute a felony violation of subdivision (b) of Section 186.22 of the Penal Code.

(22) Escape, by the use of force or violence, from a county juvenile hall, home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp in violation of subdivision (b) of Section 871 if great bodily injury is intentionally inflicted upon an employee of the juvenile facility during the commission of the escape.

(23) Torture as described in Section 206 and 206.1 of the Penal Code.

(24) Aggravated mayhem, as described in section 205 of the Penal Code.

(25) Carjacking, as described in section 215 of the Penal Code, while armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon.

(26) Kidnapping for purposes of sexual assault, as punishable in subdivision (b) of Section 209 of the Penal Code.

(27) Kidnapping as punishable in Section 209.5.

(28) The offense described in subdivision (c) of Section 26100 of the Penal Code.

(29) The offense described in Section 18745 of the Penal Code.

(30) Voluntary manslaughter, as described in subdivision (a) of Section 192 of the Penal Code.

## SEC. 5. AMENDMENT

This Act shall be broadly construed to accomplish its purposes. The provisions of section 4 of this measure may be amended so long as such amendments are consistent with and further the intent of this Act by a statute that is passed by a majority vote of the members of each

house of the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

## SEC. 6. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this measure, or part of this measure, or the application of any provision or part to any person or circumstances, is for any reason held to be invalid, the remaining provisions, or applications of provisions, shall not be affected, but shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this measure are severable.

## SEC. 7. CONFLICTING INITIATIVES

(a) In the event that this measure and another measure addressing credits and parole eligibility for state prisoners or adult court prosecution for juvenile defendants shall appear on the statewide ballot, the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure. In the event that this measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes than a measure deemed to be in conflict with it, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the other measure or measures shall be null and void.

(b) If this measure is approved by voters but superseded by law by any other conflicting measure approved by voters at the same election, and the conflicting ballot measure is later held invalid, this measure shall be self-executing and given full force and effect.

## SEC. 8. PROPONENT STANDING

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the State, government agency, or any of its officials fail to defend the constitutionality of this act, following its approval by the voters, any other government employer, the proponent, or in their absence, any citizen of this State shall have the authority to intervene in any court action challenging the constitutionality of this act for the purpose of defending its constitutionality, whether such action is in any trial court, on appeal, or on discretionary review by the Supreme court of California and/or the Supreme Court of the United States. The reasonable fees and costs of defending the action shall be a charge on funds appropriated to the Department of Justice, which shall be satisfied promptly.

## SEC. 9. LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION

This Act shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.



# SQ Mural Artists Work to Beautify the Prison

By Wesley Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

San Quentin artists say they enjoy beautifying the prison with their talents. Their latest project is to create 16 huge mural panels for one of the prison's dining halls. Each panel measures 7 feet high and 4 feet wide. The finished mural will be 64 feet long.

"I've been at San Quentin for 12 years, and there are six members of the mural crew who all work together in making this piece of art," lead muralist Scott McKinstry said. "Each panel demonstrates a member's talent."

Painting murals around the prison gives something to the incarcerated community that can be enjoyed, while at the same time, the artists get to show their talent, McKinstry said.



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Scott McKinstry, Dunya Alwan, G. Lumumba Edwards, James Norton, Bruce Fowler and James Craft

Painting of the mural panels began in 2010. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2017.

The project is taking seven

years to complete because the artists can only access their studio one day a week, according to McKinstry.

Bruce Flower, Chris Christenson, Gus Edwards, James Norton and James Craft all used their brush strokes to create the artwork that is set to be mounted in the North Block dining hall.

The dining hall mural is one of many projects the muralists are working on, said Carol Newborg, Arts Program Manager.

One pending project is a mural for San Francisco's Clarion Alley; a place known to most San Franciscans as an artist's canvas. The theme is based on restorative justice and will be painted on plywood so it can be



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Artist Bruce Fowler putting on some final touches

donated later to one of the city's businesses.

San Quentin has a history of mural paintings that were created by incarcerated men displayed around the prison. The

most famous mural was painted in the 1950s by Alfredo Santos. The mural's panels depict scenes from California's early history and through its golden years.



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Artist James Craft painting of one of the 16 panels

**NOTE: This is a notice from CDCR to all CDCR prisoners. THIS IS HOWEVER NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY SAN QUENTIN NEWS. AVISO: Esta es una información de parte de CDCR. Para todos los prisioners. ESTO NO ES UNA CONFIRMACION DE SAN QUENTIN NEWS.**

## Come Join the Crew and Make a **DIFFERENCE!**



**Fire Crew Members Wanted: Talk to your Counselor about how you can become a Fire Crew Member!**  
**Special Skill Positions Available: Diesel Mechanics, Small Engine Mechanics, Welder/Fabricators, Carpenters, Administrative Clerks, Landscapers, and Cooks.**



### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- No VIO, "R" Suffix or ESC administrative determinant.
- Must be medically cleared (Vigorous Activity or Full Duty).
- No Felony holds, warrants, or detainers.
- No prior deportations.
- USICE holds are eligible, but must have family ties in California or prior work history of one year or more.
- Custody Classification of Minimum B, with a Classification score of no more than 35 points.
- Must have a minimum of 6 months remaining on your sentence for those serving 80-85% or after WG F is applied to 1/2 time.
- Eligible cases (Eligible with no less than 2 months to serve, if returned to CDCR within 12 months of prior firefighting training).
- Maximum of 5 years remaining on your sentence if serving 80-85% or after WG F is applied to 1/2 time eligible cases.

**\*\*See your CC-1 for specific details and other requirements\*\***

**Do you want to be a Fire Crew Member?  
Contact Your Counselor for information!**





# San Quentin's Annual Health Fair

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Hundreds of prisoners formed long lines on San Quentin's Lower Yard at the prison's 13th Annual Health Fair on Aug. 19 to receive medical services and wellness information, ranging from blood pressure checks and chiropractic services to dental hygiene instructions.

"Just because the men are locked up doesn't mean they don't have influence and leadership over their families," said Sherre Patrick of Advanced Directives - Alameda County Public Health (ACPH). "If they become health conscious it could spread to their loved ones."

Advanced Directives helps men make medical decisions about healthcare choices such as life support options and surgeries.

"It's important for everyone to have the education to take care of themselves," added Madeline Tenney, staff sponsor of a self-help organization called TRUST. "We had people come from all over the country and Canada to promote spiritual, mental and physical happiness."

TRUST, which stands for Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training, sponsored the one-day event in collaboration with various healthcare service providers in the Bay Area.



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Inmates experiencing pain had their kinks worked out by visiting chiropractors in the gym

"I was impressed on how much the outside community cares," said prisoner Jim Kitlas. "They gave their time for free, for what they get paid to do. It shows the guys they have support and that gives hope and tells people to stay out of trouble."

Inside the prison's gym, chiropractors at about two dozen stations attended to prisoners.

"It's about seeing the smiles when they walk away from the table instead of the hard faces," chiropractor Dr. Brett Jones said. "They are still human beings, and we have to provide more love and not more neglect."

At another station inside the gym, men received acupressure ear seeds (tiny pink beads taped to the ear). Patients described an ailment and then a teacher or student from the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine taped a bead onto a particular area of the ear.

The seeds are designed to open blockages and to allow energy of the Qi to flow for healing purposes, according to literature handed out by the teachers and students.

"We believe inmates are entitled to healthcare and healthcare that is holistic," said acupuncturist Ian Hua. "We provide traditional Chinese medicine that induces self-care instead of pharmaceuticals to help alleviate what they are going through."

In the Education Building on the Lower Yard, dental hygienists gave instructions about dental care in two classrooms.

In one room, San Francisco

State University (SFSU) dental hygienist Alicia Covarrubias used a model of upper and lower teeth to show the men how to properly brush.

"Eating candy causes a 20-minute acid attack on your teeth," Covarrubias warned. "It is very important to brush the back of your bottom front teeth; saliva there causes plaque buildup. It is good to brush your tongue."

At the end of her presentation, each man was handed a plastic toothpick.

Next door, San Quentin's dental hygienists Zia and Shawnette G. gave the men information about the services provided at the prison for a \$5 copay, such as dental screenings, teeth cleanings, fillings, extractions and the provision of partials and dentures. Dental exams are free.

At the end of the short presentation, each participant received a toothbrush and small tube of toothpaste.

"I hope to see each and every one of them (prisoners) take care of their teeth," said Tonia Woodson, the Health Program Manager. "That they know how important it is to have healthy teeth

and a healthy mouth."

In another building on the Lower Yard, nurses checked blood pressure, glucose levels, cholesterol, weight-height ratios, eyes and ears.

Twila Brown, who teaches nursing at SFSU, monitored services at the glucose/cholesterol station.

"Over the years I've seen the men use the information to improve their health," said Mildred Crear, a nurse from the Bay Area Black Nurses Association. "One gentleman checked his cholesterol last year, and it was over 300. He came back the next year, and it was 162. It has made a difference. Each year more and more nurses want to come. They want to give back, and it's so rewarding."

The men were shown a video about myths surrounding HIV and the difference between HIV and AIDS. HIV and AIDS are transmissible through high-risk behaviors like sharing needles, unprotected sex and tattoos, but not from sweat, urine, fecal matter, or saliva, according to the video. There was also a presentation about hepatitis, HIV and AIDS prevention.



Photo by Harold Meeks

Acupuncturist applies ear seeds on David Fraire to aid energy flow



Photo by Harold Meeks

A stiff, aching neck gets the attention of a knowledgeable technician



Photo by Harold Meeks

A blood test will yield important health information



# Fair Draws Its Usual Big Crowds

"If people don't know their HIV status they could be spreading it to others or getting sick," said Georgia Schreiber, a Public Health Investigator with ACPH. "However, in these days, if you get checked, you can get the medication where you can avoid ever getting AIDS. You can live your entire life without ever getting AIDS."

ACPH personnel hosted a game premised on health knowledge. Inmates spun a wheel labeled with questions related to healthy or unhealthy relationships. Answering the question correctly earned the participant a granola bar.

"I'm trying to get a better understanding of what I don't know about health," said prisoner Anthony "Habib" Watkins. "This is my first health fair even though I've been here for five years. Prison is full of disease, and if I can learn how to keep myself safe, it's not only better for me, it's better for everyone around me."

Asian Health Services was present to educate the men about Hepatitis B and C. They also took the men through Tai Chi and Qigong positions.

"The new hepatitis cure is not just for people who are dying," said Dr. Anita Chang. "Insurance coverage starts at stage two, the fibrosis stage." Hepatitis B and C are more prevalent in Asian Americans than in other racial groups, she added.

Dr. Sue Chan taught Qigong, a Chinese internal martial art and Debbie Lee instructed dif-



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Volunteers and inmates participated in a group Tai Chi exercise

ferent groups in Tai Chi.

"I am impressed with people's ability to learn while incarcerated," said Lee. "People are really dedicated."

The San Quentin cultural awareness group Restoring Our Original True Selves (ROOTS) assisted Asian Health Services.

A nutrition program was provided by retired UC Berkeley professor Sharon Fleming. She introduced a slide presentation on negative eating habits stemming from anger, sadness, loneliness, stress, emotional instability or depression.

The presentation included techniques to curb unhealthy

eating habits. For example, Fleming said, when depression starts to set in, inmates should walk or exercise, and eat moderate meals with minimal starch and more vegetables, fruits and water.

Residents from UCSF/Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (UCSF/ZSFG) gave medical counseling on diverse bodily ailments at the Ask the Doctor table. Meanwhile, the Mental/Behavioral Health table dealt with topics ranging from

suicide to personal hygiene.

"You can't rehabilitate or participate in life if not healthy," said UCSF/ZSFG Prof. Sharad Jain. "We learn from the guys, and our intention is to train them to be active about their health."

San Quentin psychologist Dr. Schmidt added, "We offer individual and group therapy. Mental health is different from the physical. We want the guys to work through their issues."

Spiritual consultations were

given by Regalos de Dios, a nonprofit organization, and Iglesia Cristiana Jesus Salva y Sana church.

Dr. Arnold Chavez and Marciano Ortega brought 25 advisers to give guidance on spiritual healing, marriage counseling, personal behavior development and how to cope with depression and loneliness. The advisers listened and talked with inmates for about three to five minutes each.

"I personally want to continue working with these people (inmates) because I want them to be prepared to come home and help their communities," said adviser Lucy Bermudez.

In total, more than 150 volunteers served more than 2,000 prisoners throughout the day.

The Bay Area service providers included the Bay Area Black Nurses Association, Alameda County Health Department (ACHD), San Francisco State University Nursing School, the San Quentin State Prison Medical Department, and Centerforce.

Centerforce provides incarcerated individuals a variety of services from parenthood classes and health education to connections to services upon release.

*-Rahsaan Thomas, Chung Kao, Emile DeWeaver, and Charles David Henry contributed to this story*

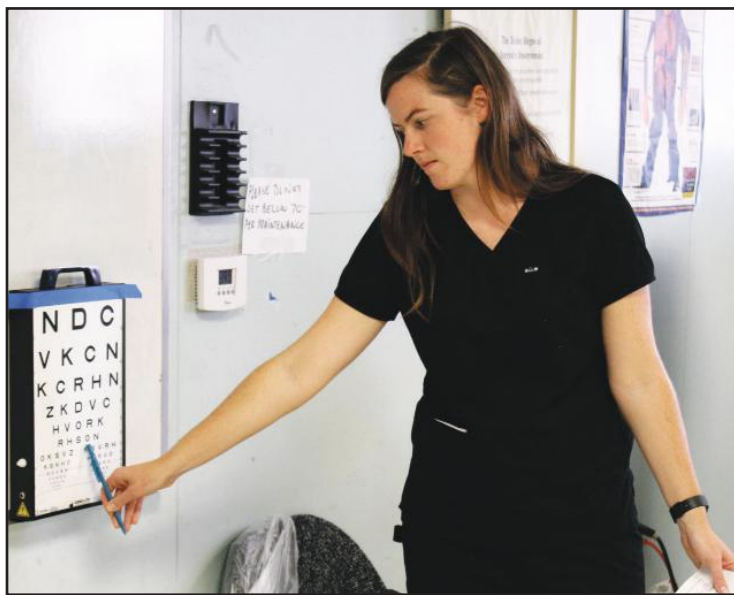


Photo by Harold Meeks

Health Fair volunteer gave vision tests to the prisoners



Photo by Harold Meeks

Chiropractors performed neck adjustments on inmates in need of neck alignment



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Jorge Torres gets his blood pressure checked



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

ACPH personnel hosted a game of health questions for the inmates to answer





Courtesy of Bill Twist

Bill Twist from the Green Life program with women leaders of the indigenous Kichwa community of Sarayaku in the rainforest in Ecuador

## Snippets

Lake Baikal is the world's deepest lake, at over 5,300 feet.

Americans originally bought their coffee beans green and did their own roasting and grinding. Folgers Coffee changed all that when it began offering coffee ready to brew.

Colts was the first professional team to have its own organized cheerleading squad introduced in 1960 when the Colts were in Baltimore.

On Oct. 1, 1962, two people were killed and at least 75 injured in a riot at the University of Mississippi, spurred by the attendance of the school's first black student, James Meredith. President Kennedy sent federal troops to quell the riots.

Neon signs are simply glass tubes filled with neon gas. Blue neon has a few drops of mercury added to it.

Indonesia is made up of 17,000 islands, but only an estimated 6,000 are uninhabited.

Chocolate comes from the Aztec word *xocolatl*, which means, "bitter water."

*Is it possible to walk through a door without knowing that it's there? The door to life is constantly evolving right before your eyes. What are the real reasons that you keep blinding yourself with the attributes of non-sense and recidivism? I can understand if one don't know how to walk through a door with their eyes wide open. We all feel for the access to opportunity though when clouded by pride we don't ask for help. We continue to perpetuate the cycle of ignorance that seared our subconscious with influences from the objective environment. Your realistic intent sets the stage for how you annihilate preconceived notions of yourself, life, love and living. Who are you? An acquired persona is not you. Leave the bulls--t at the door that you choose not to walk through.*

—Richard Lathan

## Sudoku Corner

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

I LOVE YOU  
This much...

*Enough to do anything for you-give my life, my love, my heart, and my soul to you and for you.*

*Enough to willingly give all of my time, efforts, thoughts, talents, trust and prayers to you.*

*Enough to want to protect you, care for you, guide you, hold you, comfort you, listen to you and cry to you and with you.*

*Enough to be completely comfortable with you, act silly around you, never have to hide anything from you, and be myself with you.*

*I love you enough to fight for you, compromise for you, and sacrifice myself for you if need be.*

*Enough to miss you incredibly when we're apart, no matter what length of time and regardless of the distance.*

*Enough to believe in our relationship, to stand by it through the worst of times, to have faith in our strength as a couple and to never give up on us.*

*Enough to spend the rest of my life with you, be there for you when you need or want me, and never, ever want to leave you or live without you.*

*I love you this much.*

*I love you enough to share all of my sentiments, dreams, goals, fears, hopes, and worries-my entire life with you.*

*Enough to want my promises to you and pledge my loyalty and faithfulness to you.*

*Enough to cherish your friendship, adore your personality, respect your values, and see you for who you are.*

*I love you,  
Always & forever  
"Billy, will you marry me"*



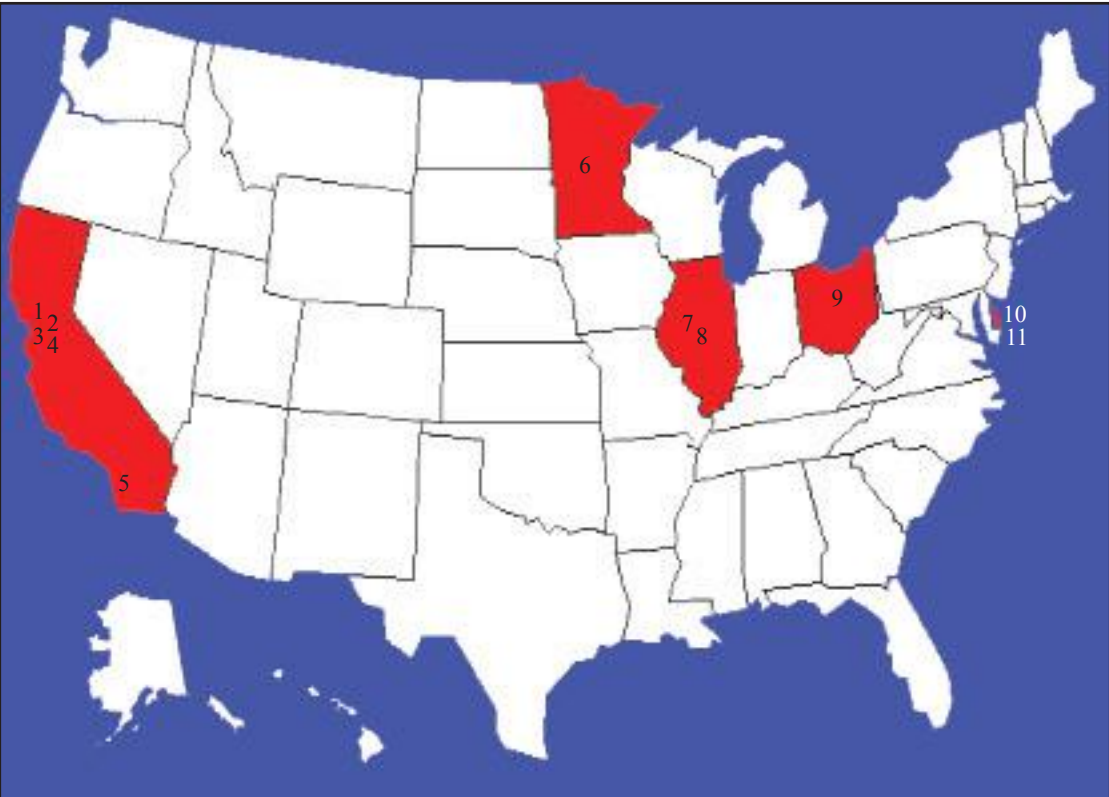
## Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

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



# News Briefs



**1. Sacramento** — The California Supreme Court decided unanimously in August to overturn the death sentence of Sergio Dujan Nelson, who was 19 years old when he was convicted of killing two co-workers in 1993. Nelson, who had no prior criminal history, admitted the killings but argued they stemmed from depression, *The Los Angeles Times* reports.

**2. Sacramento** — The state Senate unanimously confirmed Gov. Jerry Brown's appointment of Scott Kernan as head of the state prison system, the *Los Angeles Times* reports. The state prisons continue to be under federal control and oversight, subject to a lawsuit over delivery of inmate health-care and mental health services, in addition to policies regarding administrative segregation.

**3. Sacramento** — During an 18-month period in 2014-15, the suicide rate at the California Institution for Women was eight times the national average for women prisoners and five times the rate for the entire California prison system, according to state Sen. Connie Leyva, D-Chino. As a result, an audit is underway examining suicide prevention and reduction policies, procedures and practices at state prisons.

**4. Sacramento** — The Commission on Accreditation for Corrections accredited seven more California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) prisons, bringing the total number of accredited state prisons to 30. "Our success with accreditation is proof of the progress CDCR is making in improving our prison system," said CDCR Secretary Scott Kernan. "We started this ACA process six years ago at a time when there were still too many inmates in our

prisons and too few resources to rehabilitate them. ACA accreditation demonstrates our efforts to reform and improve California's correctional system are working well."

**5. San Diego** — A pilot program offering youth offenders an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system has been successful in its first year, officials said. The City Heights Restorative Community Conference Pilot Project takes qualified youth offenders and puts them in direct meetings with their victims and community stakeholders. The parties work out customized plans, including community service for the offender, restitution,

getting involved in after-school activities or taking anti-drug or anti-alcohol classes designed to repair the harm done to victims, families and the community, as well as the offenders themselves.

**6. Minnesota** — Removing children from their homes and placing them in a large juvenile detention center exposes them to additional risks, "piling trauma upon trauma," said Judge Margaret Daly. This does not help children who need mental health services, the *Star Tribune* reports. "We're locking away far too many kids, and that's a huge cause for concern," added Rep. Joe Mullery (Democratic-Farmer-Labor

Party-Minneapolis), a longtime advocate for juvenile justice reform in the report. "Sending kids to incarceration, when they haven't even committed a crime, has proved to end up making them hardened criminals."

**7. Chicago** — Hoping to prevent violence, Mothers Against Senseless Killings (MASK) planted folding chairs on the southeast corner of an intersection and spent the afternoon chatting with passersby and dispensing hugs, *In These Times* reports.

**8. Chicago** — Gov. Bruce Rauner signed legislation last August to end automatic transfers to adult court for 15-year-olds and limit the

transfer of 16- and 17-year-olds charged with first-degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault or aggravated battery with a firearm, *The Associated Press* reports. The legislation ensures some juveniles will have their cases heard before a juvenile court judge who can consider mitigating factors such as background, mental capacity and culpability before deciding whether the case should be transferred to adult court.

**9. Columbus, Ohio** — A state court committee plans to study and make recommendations about juvenile court policies on shackling youths during court proceedings, *The Associated Press* reports. The court's chief justice says the safety of the juvenile and others in the proceedings must be balanced "with the rehabilitative focus that is at the core of our juvenile court system."

**10. Washington** — Nearly 5,500 people were killed by gun violence this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit organization that compiles real-time information on shootings in the United States. The number excludes suicides by gun, which is nearly double the number of gun homicides in any given year, according to the report.

**11. Washington** — Citing a report released last August by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, suicide in county jails is the leading cause of death in such facilities and is on the rise, according to *The Marshall Project*. One reason jails have a higher suicide rate (46 per 100,000 in 2013) than prisons (15 per 100,000) is that people who enter a jail often face a first-time "shock of confinement." They are stripped of their jobs, housing and basic sense of normalcy.

## WORDCROSS PUZZLE by Jonathan Chiu

**Across**

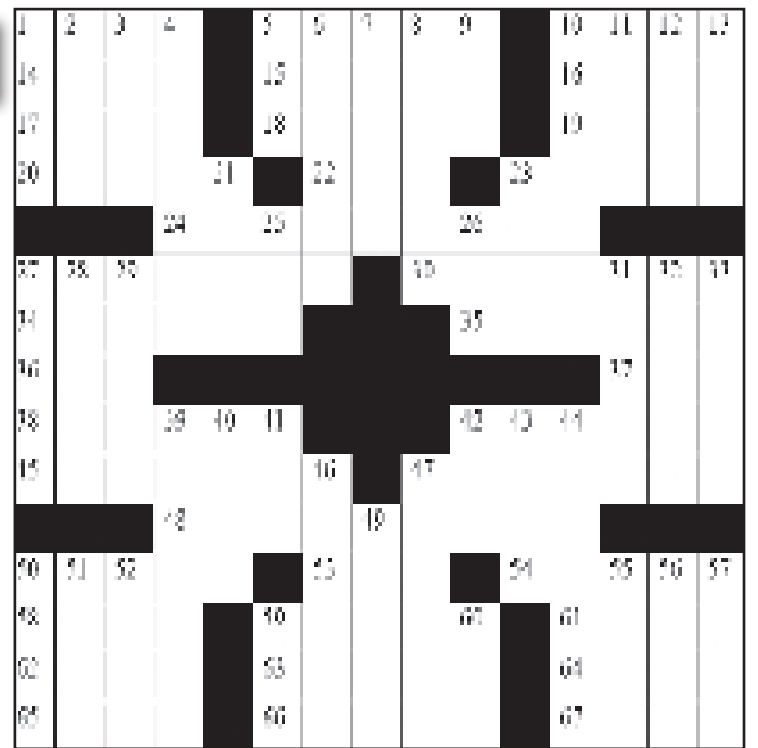
1. A fine spray
5. Small jazz ensemble
10. What a cell needs on a hot day
14. Proceeds fed, stretch, or drawn
15. McDonald's essential equipment
16. (Abbr.) Call for rescue
17. "The Biggest Little City in the World"
18. A thin flat piece of wood used in the back of a chair
19. Singer Wilson and wife of Tom Hanks
20. "Machete" actor Danny \_\_\_\_\_
22. Eighth letter of the Hebrew alphabet
23. A call to or out of
24. Sugar substitute ingredient
27. "Family Guy" character Joe \_\_\_\_\_ or a type of TV dinner
30. Type of sale that happens in Nov. & Dec. (2 words)
34. "The Mask We Live In" creator Jennifer Siebel \_\_\_\_\_
35. A person who herds animals to the market
36. Food dish Chicken \_\_\_\_ King
37. The prayer \_\_\_\_ Maria
38. US inventor Anthony who invented light

42. Main component of fantasy football
45. Former country of the USSR on the Baltic Sea
47. Something birds eat from at your house
48. Type of belt worn by Arnold or Stallone in action movies
50. Group of singers in church
53. A type of business degree
54. Type of order to a dog
58. 90's Mariah Carey song or the main character in a comic book
59. Actors Hemsworth and Neeson
61. Director \_\_\_\_\_ Ephron
62. Not closed
63. Brit. dialect for abalone
64. \_\_\_\_'s Walk for Breast Cancer
65. \_\_\_\_ Disney
66. Workout term \_\_\_\_\_-mode
67. Type of act that is criminal

**Down**

1. "Family Guy" pharmacy owner
2. Pop group Bon \_\_\_\_\_
3. Monetary unit in Samoa
4. USC's football team
5. (Accryn.) for debilitating medical condition

6. BBC TV series "\_\_\_\_\_ Black"
7. One who competes in mile races
8. *SON* September profile Dr. G. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A scrap of food left from a meal
10. Chocolate brand \_\_\_\_\_ Rocher
11. Having an intense craving
12. Rapper \_\_\_\_ Dogg
13. Permanent memento from prison
21. Italian veal dish \_\_\_\_ buco
23. Michael K. Williams' character on "The Wire"
25. Fruit drink \_\_\_\_ Wonderful
26. (Accryn.) for medical saving device
27. Simpsons' criminal
28. Author Orson
29. To be in store for
31. To escape or get away
32. Taylor Swift's song "We are \_\_\_\_\_ ever getting back together"
33. Women's clothing
39. A hypothetical precursor of living organisms in the chemical evolution preceding the occurrence of life.
40. Snarl or growl
41. "Furious 6" director



Justin

42. Golf ball's mate
43. Ocean's coral
44. Glands that are located on top of your kidneys
46. To regard with delight
47. What you go down in
49. President Barack
50. Wake-up call "\_\_\_\_\_ Time"
51. A type of air filter
52. City in W. European Russia
55. Pop singer \_\_\_\_ Lo
56. Type of bar used in opening doors or gates
57. You can use one or both

**LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS**



- of these on a person
59. A tennis stroke
60. Dodge sport's vehicle badging



# Prison Spending Increased With Lower Prisoner Count

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Even though the California prisoner count has dropped, spending has increased, according to a Sacramento Bee report.

The report, written by Dan Walters, states that “something of a peace dividend was promised – or at least assumed – when California, according to federal court pressure, sharply reduced its prison population.”

The number of inmates declined sharply in just a few years, from 166,000 to 129,000, according to the California Legislature’s budget

analyst, Mac Taylor.

“One might think that reducing the prison population by 22 percent would also sharply reduce the state’s outlays for what is called – perhaps laughingly – ‘corrections,’” says Walters.

Initially, according to Taylor, it did have that effect, lowering prison costs by about \$1 billion, or 10 percent. But all of those savings – and then some – went to counties to pay for Realignment. After the initial decline, the state’s prison costs began to climb and have jumped by nearly \$2 billion since 2012-13 – not counting an increase in what is paid to counties, now \$1.1 billion,

stated Walters.

“Therefore, true prison spending approaches \$12 billion a year now, and the average spent on each state inmate has soared to more than \$63,000 a year,” Walters reported.

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**“Bottom line,  
inmates down 22  
percent, costs up  
nearly 20 percent”**

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Prison officials attribute the increase largely to salary increases and federal court

pressure to improve inmate care. The prison system has about 62,000 authorized positions now (but only about 54,000 jobs actually filled). That’s down from 68,000 in 2010, but the payroll, just under \$5 billion a year, is virtually unchanged, *The Bee* said.

California went from having about 20,000 prison inmates during Gov. Jerry Brown’s first stint as governor to more than 160,000 when he returned to the office three decades later, and spending on prisons had jumped twentyfold, stated the report.

Although the state had built 22 new prisons during his absence, the system was severely overcrowded and federal judges were demanding reduction. Initially, Brown resisted, but after the U.S. Supreme Court acted in 2011, he embraced “Realignment,” which pays counties to handle more newly convicted low-level felons, reducing prison inmates by attrition, said Walters.

But voters also approved Proposition 47 in 2014, which

has meant 4,000-plus fewer inmates, according to Walters.

Taylor’s office and Brown’s Department of Finance jointly told voters in their official summaries of Proposition 47 that “Net state criminal justice savings...could reach the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually,” stated Walters.

The savings were to be spent on drug treatment, juvenile delinquency prevention and other programs to reduce incarceration.

But when the Department of Finance made its savings estimate for the budget this year, it was just \$29.3 million, reported *The Bee*.

Taylor responded that the number should be much higher, at least \$135 million, and advocates for drug treatment and other services were outraged, said Walters.

The discrepancy was aired in a state budget hearing, with both sides defending their numbers, but the issue remains unresolved. “Bottom line, inmates down 22 percent, costs up nearly 20 percent,” Walters said. “Such a deal.”

## Republican National Convention Calls for Criminal Justice Reform

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

Criminal justice reform was the subject on the second day of the Republican National Convention (RNC). It featured a three-governor forum sponsored by the U.S. Justice Action Network and the GOPAC Education Fund.

These three governors are “leading their states to reform a criminal justice system rife with overly strict sentencing laws and high rates of incarceration and recidivism,” reports M. G. Oprea in the *The Federalist* on July 7.

The event focused on the need to give those who were formerly imprisoned a chance for redemption and to restore their dignity, says Oprea.

One of the major problems with incarcerated people who commit nonviolent crimes is that they often come out of prison in worse shape and are more

likely to engage in criminal activity, reports Oprea.

Gov. Mathew Bevin of Kentucky said that dehumanization can occur when you remove someone’s dignity. “This is not a partisan issue. This is a human issue. Dignity transcends party.”

Gov. Mary Fallin of Oklahoma has signed a law that returns driver licenses to low-risk formerly incarcerated. She also signed an order to ban the box that asks if the applicant for state employment has a criminal past.

Gov. Nathan Deal of Georgia said, “One of the main purposes of government is to keep people safe.” He believes education reform is, “the ultimate criminal justice reform,” and that dropping out of high school is directly related to recidivism.

Money can also be a powerful tool to convince people of the need for justice reform, notes Oprea. Some alternative pro-

grams cost as little as \$5,000 per person a year compared to an average of \$19,000 to incarcerate them.

Although many conservative states are leading justice reform, conservatives and Republicans on the street don’t necessarily support it or even have it on their radar, says Oprea. They continue to believe in the 1980s and 1990s get-tough-on-crime era policies.

Reform efforts by Republicans aren’t necessarily on the radar of younger, left-leaning Democrats. One such person, RNC protester Melissa Hill of Minneapolis, said that she believes Democratic-controlled city governments and state legislatures have also neglected criminal justice reform.

Bevin suggested, “Criminal justice reform and the safety of communities go hand in hand. United we stand. Divided we fall. If ever there is an issue that embodies that...it is this issue.”

## Rise in Female Prisoners Correlates With Poverty, Violence and Drug Dependence

The female prison population in the United States from 2000 through 2009 rose by 21.6 percent while there was a 15.6 percent increase for men.

In 2010, 205,000 women were in prison or jail. This growth resulted in families and communities that were torn apart, reported Julie Ajinkya, a policy analyst at the Center for American Progress.

Ajinkya contends that sexual violence, drug dependence and poverty are strongly correlated with women’s incarceration. She said we lock women up instead of providing services that could help them.

Women of color experience this at disproportionate rates so they have a greater chance of entering the criminal justice system, Ajinkya claims.

She cites the Sentencing Project report that demonstrates racial disparities among women inmates over the past decade. Black women were in state and federal prisons at six times the rate of White women in 2000.

By 2009 this ratio declined

by 53 percent, about 2.8-to-1. The disparity between Hispanic and non-Hispanic White women declined by 16.7 percent over the same period.

There are many factors at play in these racial disparities, such as changes in law enforcement and sentencing practices and policies, or involvement of women in crime, she stated.

Black women experienced a decline of 30.7 percent in their incarceration rate between 2000 and 2009. Latino women had a 23.3 percent rise, and White women’s rate increased 47.1 percent. Ajinkya explained that could be because of increased methamphetamine enforcement — a drug used more by Whites and Latinos — and harsh sentencing policies.

The vast majority of women in prison — 85 to 90 percent — have been victims of violence prior to incarceration, including domestic violence, rape, sexual assault and child abuse, she said.

Girls of color who are victims of abuse are more likely

to enter the criminal justice system as offenders, according to Ajinkya. But White girls have a better chance of being viewed as victims and referred to child welfare and mental health systems.

Eighty percent of women prisoners are estimated to suffer from substance addiction. Instead of treatment they are imprisoned, tearing families apart. Sixty-five percent of women prisoners compared to 44 percent of men report having minor children, Ajinkya reported.

Seventy-seven percent of imprisoned mothers report they were the primary caregiver. One and a half million children currently have a parent in state or federal prison — 1 in 15 black children, 1 in 42 Latino children, compared to 1 in 111 White children, she stated.

When released, women are restricted from governmental assistance programs such as housing, employment, education and subsistence benefits, Ajinkya said.

—David Eugene Archer Sr.

## More Than 70 Million Americans Can Expunge Their Records

By Forrest Lee Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

More than 70 million Americans have criminal records and many of them could have their pasts expunged, the *Pew Charitable Trusts* reports.

Research showed 23,386 people convicted of a crime could apply to have the record obliterated, according to Matthew Stubenberg, a Maryland lawyer and software programmer.

Stubenberg’s research further discovered less than a third of those people appealed to have their records expunged. Failure to do so, according to the report, creates a barrier to employment, housing, student loans and a professional license.

Many legal analysts and specialists in the field of expungement say this is not unusual. Many Americans who have served time on misdemeanor and felony offenses are not utilizing laws that allow them to erase and seal their records of arrests and convictions.

A study conducted by the Vera Institute of Justice, a nonprofit criminal justice research center, showed 31 states passed expungement laws between the years of 2009 and 2014. The report states that the changes allowed records to be expunged, destroyed, sealed or shielded from the public, but accessible to law enforcement.

“A lot of people might be eligible (for an expungement) but they might not know,” said Madeline Neighly of the nonpartisan Council of State Governments Justice Center. “They might not have access

to the paperwork or someone to walk them through the process. They usually need civil legal aid, and in some cases it’s actually quite expensive to file for expungement.”

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**“A lot of people  
might be  
eligible (for an  
expungement)  
but they might  
not know”**

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Many states have made expungement less expensive. In Maryland, court costs for expungement amount to \$30. Some states charge \$50 to \$250, Neighly said.

However, high fees such as these, might be too difficult for poor and struggling people to pay, says the report.

“In some cases, someone who’s looking for work who can’t (get a job) because of their record may not have the money to pay to get their record cleared,” Neighly said. “It’s kind of a Catch-22 situation.”

More assistance is being provided for people who want their records sealed or erased. States are putting on expungement forums with lawyers, public defenders and law students, and mobile apps and websites are put in place to help people determine whether their records are erasable. A San Francisco-based website helps people contact a public defender who can help them with expungement proceedings.



# Police Harassment of Blacks Higher Than for Other Minorities

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Associate Editor

In a recent poll, Blacks reported being harassed by police at a higher percentage than reported by Asians, Hispanics and Whites, according to *The Associated Press (AP)*.

“Two-thirds of young African-Americans and 4 in 10 Hispanics say that they or someone they know has experienced violence or harassment at the hands of the police, according to a new GenForward poll,” the *AP* reported.

Poll numbers reveal 3 in 10

Whites and Asians reported someone they know has been a victim of harassment by police, while 1 in 10 Whites and 1 in 20 Asians reported it as being their personal experience.

“I know they (police) are looking at me,” said 28-year-old Patience Buxton of Mis-

issippi, a biracial woman who identifies as White. “I get nervous myself. I know I’ve done nothing wrong.”

The poll of 1,940 adults shows 22 percent of Blacks reported that they have directly experienced police harassment or violence while 18 percent of Hispanics, 11 percent of Whites, and 6 percent of Asian-Americans reported similar abuse.

The poll sought to draw attention to the way race and ethnicity form the sentiments of a new generation and was conducted by the GenForward organization, with funding from the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with the *AP-NORC* Center for Public Affairs Research. It surveyed young adults of color 18 to 30 years of age, the *AP* reported.

According to the survey, 6 in 10 young adults view killings of Black people by police and violence against police as “extremely or very serious prob-

lems,” according to the poll.

“Young African-Americans and Hispanics see killings by police as more serious problems and young Whites see violence against the police as more serious,” the *AP* reported. “Most, especially Blacks and Hispanics, say not-guilty verdicts for three Baltimore police officers charged in the April 2015 death of Freddie Gray, 25, (who died while handcuffed and shackled in a police van) give them less confidence in the police.”

The GenForward poll, however, showed that young Blacks and Hispanics want the police present in their communities. It was reported that most young people support additional policing in public places such as schools, theaters and malls.

The Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago paid for the GenForward survey, using grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Ford Foundation.

## Tulare County Jail System Benefits From Realignment Legislation

By Larry Smith  
Journalism Guild Writer

Tulare County reports its jail system has benefited greatly from California’s Realignment legislation, which changed incarceration of low-level offenders from state prisons to county jails.

The AB 109 legislation has provided funds for more than 160 programs designed to reduce recidivism. That includes parenting classes, education, vocational, mental health and substance abuse programs, the *Visalia Times Delta* reported in July.

“Tulare County is very unique,” said Christie Myer, Tulare County’s chief probation officer. “AB 109 gave us the ability to do it.”

An average of more than 555 offenders are being housed. “A huge population was sent to their county of jurisdiction. The prison population is going to decrease while we increase,” said Sheriff’s Capt. Timothy Fosnaugh,

To track the progress of inmates’ program successes, the Vera Institute of Justice started the Incarcerated Trends Project to advance research and help guide changes by providing accessible information on the average number of people in jail and prison for every county in the nation.

“Until now, there hasn’t been a nationwide data set to examine



Courtesy of www.gottagobailbonds.com

Tulare County jail

whether, and how, state prison and jail trends relate to one another,” said project lead Chris Henrichson. “While this data alone can’t explain why trends diverge, it’s now clear that they often do.”

“Policy makers and the public must look at both prison and jail population to measure the success of reform efforts,” he added.

The available research and policy data on mass incarceration is focused on the state-level numbers, but doesn’t provide the detail needed to help lawmakers reduce the numbers of incarcerated people, Henrichson said.

The last 90 days of an inmate’s sentence are spent in a transitional program, which helps prepare for re-entry into society. The program connects prisoners with the Department of Motor Vehicles, Social Secu-

rity office and certain housing opportunities.

“We are working really hard to help them be more successful upon release,” said Fosnaugh.

“Examining the number of county residents in prison and jail puts the difficult problem of 2.2 million Americans behind bars in local context that can inform the conversation on changes we want in our communities,” said Jacob Kang-Brown, a senior associate.

Ironically, studies showed incarceration rates are highest in small counties as opposed to the largest cities. Counties with the highest rates included: Kings, Lake, Tehama, Tulare and Shasta.

In addition, Tulare has one of the lowest straight-sentencing rates in the state, with about 33 percent of the jail population serving 14-month full sentences.

## Friends Outside Helps to Reduce Recidivism Rate

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Joaquin County’s recidivism rate is trending downward, according to the county probation department.

San Joaquin County Chief Probation Officer Stephanie James in July presented an annual recidivism report to the County Board of Supervisors that reflected a decline in convictions of released prisoners.

“We’re continually assessing the work that we’re doing, improving the strategies... our communication, and ... our referral process,” James told supervisors.

Many Californians who normally would have spent time in prison became the responsibility of county probation departments in 2011 after the passage of Assembly Bill 109, California’s Public Safety Realignment Act. The SJ Probation Department tracks the number of prisoners who are

released and then subsequently arrested and convicted.

In the last tracking period – October 2014 through September 2015 – 772 offenders were released. Of them, 332 were high-risk offenders most likely to commit violent crime. According to James, only 43 percent were later arrested and 23 percent convicted.

Over 80 percent of the crimes they committed were related to drug abuse, weapons charges, stolen property, assault and DUI, she said. The three most common arrests were possession of a controlled substance, weapons-related charges and vehicle thefts, James said.

During the first year of realignment, 44 percent of 813 prisoners released were arrested and 27 percent were convicted, according to James.

James credits a Stockton-based nonprofit organization, Friends Outside, for helping prisoners transition back into

the community. She said her department now refers all arrestees to Friends Outside and court appearance rates have increased to 97 percent.

Gretchen Newby, executive director of Friends Outside, said the organization’s biggest success is with those currently incarcerated and about to be placed on probation.

“What we do is... go to the jails or the prison... and tell the client what to expect and what they need to do once they’re released,” Newby said.

Jason, 38, was helped by Friends Outside before his release. He said the organization provided him with clothes and bus passes, directions to local food banks, assistance writing a resume and obtaining an ID card from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

“Groups like this are just phenomenal. I’ve been in and out of trouble... and there was never anything like this available to me before,” Jason said.

## Officers Being Rewarded For Showing Restraint

By Wayne Boatwright  
Journalism Guild Writer

More local police departments reward officers for showing restraint in the line of duty, reports Errin Haines Whack for *The Associated Press*.

Following the Justice Department’s recommendation to institute de-escalation tactics after a 2013 increase in police shootings, Philadelphia has honored more than 40 police officers since December 2015 for defusing conflicts without using maximum force.

“This is an effort to slow down situations for the sake of everybody concerned,” said Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross.

Such awards are key to changing the mentality inside law enforcement, said Phillip Goff, director of the Center for Policing Equity, a think tank.

This change is resisted by many police departments. The Los Angeles police union called such awards “a terrible idea.”

In a blog post, the Board of the Los Angeles Police Protective League stated, “This award will prioritize the lives of suspected criminals over the

lives of LAPD officers and goes against the core foundation of an officer’s training.”

As police officers receive significantly less training in de-escalation than in firearms or self-defense, numerous agencies are discussing and adopting de-escalation tactics to slow down and defuse confrontations, according to the Police Executive Research Forum, a law enforcement think tank.

Philadelphia officer Eric Tyler was recognized for using a stun gun instead of his firearm on a suspect who threatened to shoot Tyler’s colleague in February.

Tyler had never shot anyone in his 12-year career; however, he was prepared to, and then “I thought better of it, and our training took over” he said.

Advocates say that by rewarding officers for showing restraint and putting the tactic on par with bravery, police departments can counter the rise in accusations of excessive force following recent deadly shooting of Blacks in Ferguson, Cleveland, Chicago, North Charleston, etc.

The suspect who Tyler used a nonlethal Taser on turned out to be unarmed.

## CDCR Contracts CCA For Re-entry Services

By Noel Scott  
Journalism Guild

The Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) announced they were contracted by the CDCR to provide re-entry services for 120 men at the Boston Avenue facility in San Diego, reports *Globe Newswire*.

The Male Community Re-entry Programs are designed to provide a wide range of services, including substance abuse, medical and mental health care, education, employment and family reunification to help inmates transition back into society.

CCA was also awarded a contract by the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Ocean View and plans to consolidate both resident populations into a 483-bed facility in Ocean View.

“We continue to focus our efforts on delivering innovative and cost-effective solutions... and are excited to expand our partnership with the state of California,” said Damon Hininger, CCA’s president and CEO.

CCA owns or operates 85 prisons and re-entry facilities that house approximately 89,000 inmates or parolees in 20 states and the District of Columbia.



# A Look Back Into Voting History of Minorities

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

A coalition of America's minorities, voting with liberal Whites, could dramatically change the nation's political landscape, a progressive author says. However, disenfranchisement laws diminish the impact of the largest minority group, African-Americans.

States throughout the country have varying laws that play a role in taking away a person's right to vote. In California, the right to vote is only temporarily denied to those serving a sentence for serious felonies.

Steve Phillips, author of *Brown is the New White: How the Demographic Revolution has Created a New American Majority* (2016), goes back into history, breaking down elections and voting patterns to demonstrate the relevancy of a coalition of like-minded voters. That includes African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans,

Arab-Americans and Native-Americans along with the traditional progressive White voters in what he calls the New American Majority.

*America has a progressive, multiracial majority right now that has the power to elect presidents and reshape American politics, policies and priorities for decades to come.*

He reports progressive people of color now comprise 23 percent of all the eligible voters in America, and progressive Whites account for 28 percent of all eligible voters. Together, these constituencies make up 51 percent of the country's citizen voting age population, and that majority is getting bigger every day.

*Brown is the New White* is a critique of the progressive movement, in how it fails to grasp the changing de-

## Book Review

mographics of the U.S. and issues related to the New American Majority. Instead, current progressive leaders concentrate on *America's longstanding preference for White people and how that preoccupation continues to influence all aspects of politics and society.* Phillips explains why it is wrong for the progressive movement to "chase" White swing voters.

The book contends the New American Majority should focus heavily on racism, discrimination, injustice and inequality.

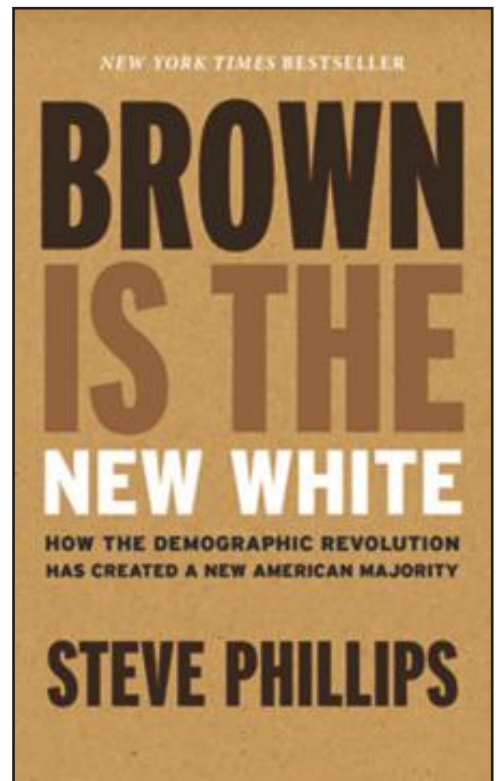
*We don't have to wait for every single person to fully understand and embrace every single racial or ethnic group to make progress toward greater racial and economic justice. In fact, we can't afford to wait. We can work and win at the bal-*

*lot box while we learn and grow in the movement.*

One of the most striking of the claims in *Brown is the New White* is data that shows how the Democrats lost the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010 and, subsequently, lost the Senate in 2014. Phillips attributes both losses to the Democratic Party ignoring issues relevant to the New American Majority.

His analysis concludes they stayed home and did not vote, and that pointedly affected the elections.

*Brown is the New White* is instructional. Phillips says



that progressives need to empower more people of color, listen to its constituency and take charge of the future as the New American Majority.

## What Is Your Stance on the National Anthem?

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Many of the men in blue say they would remain seated during the National Anthem. Like a small but growing number of professional athletes refusing to stand for the national anthem, mainliners have expressed similar views of the criminal justice system.

"Asked on the Line" con-

ducted an informal survey with four questions. The first question mainliners were asked was, would you stand for the National Anthem or would you remain seated like San Francisco Forty-Niner football player Colin Kaepernick?

The second question mainliners were asked was whether they agree with the notion that compared to other countries, the United States has the best

criminal justice system in the world, albeit not a perfect system.

Third, the men in blue were asked, if resources were not an issue, would you ever leave the United States and live in another country?

Finally, the men in blue were asked, should the government be judged because individual government employees, agents, and/or officers abuse

## Asked On The Line

their authority or because the government fails to hold those corrupt employees, agents and/or officers responsible?

Of the men surveyed, 52 percent would stand for the national anthem, but 48 percent would remain seated.

Fifty-five percent of the men surveyed did not agree that the U.S. has the "best" criminal justice system in the world. However, 30 percent agreed that, compared to other countries, the U.S. justice system is indeed the best. Fifteen percent replied they did not know.

When asked if they would ever leave the U.S. and live in another country, 44 percent replied "maybe" and 11 percent "not likely." However, 11 percent answered they would live in another country "someday" and 19 percent would leave the U.S. as soon as they get off parole. Fifteen percent of the men surveyed vowed to never leave the country.

Although the survey was anonymous, some of the men chose to voice their opinions.

A. Ross: "I have a right to a trial, and if I am sentenced to death, I have a right to appeal. The police are setting those rights aside."

L. Paul: "I would find out what the officers are going through, and then I would forgive them and pray for them."

W. Goodman: "I would not judge the system, rather those who abuse their authority, and I would expect the system to prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law."

F. Jones: "Both. When an employee of the government fails to abide by the laws, they should be held accountable for that violation. The govern-

ment should be judged if they do not hold those employees accountable."

D. Krizman: "The behavior of government officials must be honorable for any system of government to work. Our system should be simplified and refined, and its officials must be held to a higher standard."

E. Carlevato: "Accountability is a very important trait for me, and the system is failing to hold those corrupt employees, agents and officers responsible."

K. McBride: "Each person in power is responsible for his or her own actions. However, their superiors are also responsible for disciplining them."

P. Espinal: "I would judge the government for not holding corrupt employees or officers responsible because the people are the government."

C. Cherry: "The government should look at why the abuse of power is occurring. There has to be accountability for law enforcement officers who shoot and kill people just for having a knife. There has to be another way."

M. James: "I would judge those individual government officials who don't hold those corrupt employees, agents and officers responsible."

J. Hancock: "I would hold the system accountable by deeply learning the intricacies of the system and use a remedy available to expose what is broken and what needs to be changed."

T. Slaughter: "It is not only those corrupt agents, employees or officers, but the rich and famous are not being held responsible by the government."

## Q & A With MAC Executives

Many of the men on the mainline know MAC President Johnson and Vice-president Alvarez. However, here is an introduction to the other four men who serve on the MAC Executive Body: Executive Secretary Matthew Nguyen, Parliamentarian Darryl Hill, H-Unit Senior Advisor Willie Thompson, and Sergeant at Arms Nicola Bucci. After being elected to the MAC General Body by a vote of the mainline population, these men were voted into the Executive Body by a vote of the General Body of MAC Representatives.

1. How many years have you been a MAC Representative?

Executive Secretary Matthew Nguyen: "Two years."

Parliamentarian Darryl Hill: "I have been a MAC Rep. for the past six years."

H-Unit Senior Advisor Willie Thompson: "I have been a MAC Representative since 2015."

Sergeant at Arms Nicola Bucci: "From March 2015 to the present."

2. Were you ever a MAC Representative at another institution?

Nguyen: "No."

Hill: "Yes. I was a MAC Representative at DVI-Tracy and at Soledad Prison."

## MAC Corner

Thompson: "No, but I would work and talk to them about issues."

Bucci: "Yes. I was the vice-chairperson at ISP from April 2013 to April 2014."

3. Why did you become a MAC Representative?

Nguyen: "My friend was a MAC member, and he needed help structuring the council. I had no experience working in that capacity, but I have been in positions of influence and power in the past, so I figured I might help him as long as I knew the law of the land and the nature of the beast I will be dealing with."

Hill: "To help general population programs run smoothly and effectively as possible. My hopes are to always help solve a situation before it becomes a problem."

Thompson: "I like to help people and let them know that they are not alone."

Bucci: "To give back to my community and reinforce my leadership skills while feeling a sense of self-worth."

4. What is your top priority as a MAC Representative?

Nguyen: "To get us what we

have coming. If it's in the Title 15 and the DOM, I want us to have it by right of the law."

Hill: "To research legal matters through the DOM and the Title 15."

Thompson: "To have a relationship with the other inmates and the staff in H-Unit and San Quentin. I always encourage the men in H-Unit to please come and talk to me if there is an issue that I can help them with. I am not hard to find and most everyone in H-Unit knows me."

Bucci: "To be transparent with my peers and with the administration. I feel it is my responsibility to my victims, community and family to live a pro-social life within my community, and as a MAC representative, I must inform my fellow inmates of their rights."

Nguyen oversees the administrative operations of MAC, Hill chairs the Recreation Subcommittee, Thompson oversees the H-Unit Subcommittees and Bucci chairs the North Block Subcommittee.

-Angelo Falcone



# A Violent Death Leads to Forgiveness

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

A 72-year-old woman and an incarcerated Black man shared stories of how they avoided becoming leaders of hate by forgiving the men who committed crimes against their family members.

"Forgiving someone who committed an atrocious crime against your loved one is hard to do, but the offender will live in your head until you do," said Darnell "Mo" Washington in San Quentin State Prison's Catholic Chapel. Washington was a featured speaker at the Restorative Justice Symposium on Aug. 13.

Cheryl Ward-Keiser stood before a mixed crowd of about 100 incarcerated men and visitors, and candidly told her story.

Teenagers entered her home in 1991, looking for a safe. Three boys tied up Ward-Keiser and her husband, Jim, while a girl waited outside in the getaway car. There was no safe or money, but the robbers didn't believe that. They made Ward-Keiser's daughter, Roxie, strip and put a shotgun in her mouth, threatening to blow her "f-ing head off."

Next, they threatened to rape her and Roxie. Jim stood up and was shot and killed, while Ward-Keiser was lying on the floor with a foot on her neck and a gun against the back of her head. The robbers fled. All were caught within 27 hours.

"I ended up marrying the cop that caught them," Ward-Keiser



Cheryl Ward-Keiser (third from left) at the Restorative Justice symposium

said. "I have a special request: the f-word has done the most damage to me. I beg you to remove that word from your vocabulary because the moment I hear that word, I can feel that gun at the back of my head."

Despite the atrocities committed, Ward-Keiser sought out the men and woman to forgive them.

Ward-Keiser said that as a Christian she had to forgive. "I didn't know how to do it, but I knew that I needed to. I know that as I walk, my child walks behind me. If I hated, I would be the leader of hate and I couldn't be that kind of mother because if I did, I take us all down."

After being diagnosed with three different cancers within three months, Ward-Keiser de-

cidated God was telling her she didn't have forever to reach out to the teenagers. She started writing to them. Then she went to visit them all, including the man who raped Roxie.

"He asked, 'What did I hope to have come from doing this?'" said Ward-Keiser. "I answered, 'That we become friends.' He moved back and said, 'We can't.'"

Before the visit, just seeing that man's name on an envelope caused a flashback of that dreadful night.

After the visit, the man wrote Ward-Keiser and said, "You set me free."

Ward-Keiser said, "I saw a totally different young man across that table and my flashback was

gone. Only meeting him could have done that."

The offender has honored her husband by having no disciplinary infractions in his 25-year prison record, added Ward-Keiser.

She ended saying, "I know the system makes it hard to find your victim and say you are sorry. I do this as much for me as I do for you."

After hearing Ward-Keiser's tale, guest Sevan Poetry said, "I'm thinking about the things I haven't forgiven people for that are so small."

Next, inside speakers Washington and Trinkell Leon Bland took the podium.

Washington spoke about struggling with staying centered

after finding out Bland, who arrived at San Quentin in 2016, assaulted and hospitalized his aunt in a drug-induced rage in 2011.

When Bland found out he was going to the same prison as Washington, he thought, "This isn't going to end well."

Washington discussed the dilemma with fellow Restorative Justice facilitator Louis Scott, who told him, "Mo, it couldn't have happened to a better person — you believe in Restorative Justice."

Instead of retaliating, Washington sought to restore. They talked and Bland signed up for the group Restorative Justice.

Bland said, "I did something atrocious to someone I really love. She was not at fault. There was no reason. It didn't just affect me and her, it affected our family."

Washington responded, "When it comes to violence, enough is enough. If I would have done something to him, my family would have been suffering."

Symposium host Chris Gallo asked the audience for feedback.

Azadeh Zoharbi of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights said, "I feel a renewed desire to have that compassion infused in the way we govern ourselves."

Mike Webb said, "I apologize to all those who were done wrong and never got to hear I'm sorry."

Leonard Walker said, "Restorative Justice is powerful; ya'll better stay with it."

## Offenders Earn Employment As Software Engineers Inside San Quentin

By **Michele Kane**

Federal and state-authorized Joint Venture Program allows employment of incarcerated individuals at market wages.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has entered into a Joint Venture agreement with California-based non-profit Turn 2 You, Inc., to employ trained offenders within the walls of San Quentin State Prison.

The employed offenders will have completed the Code.7370 program, a technology-based rehabilitation program also operated at San Quentin by CDCR

in partnership with the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) and San Francisco-based non-profit The Last Mile. The program teaches offenders industry-current computer coding skills.

Selected graduates of the Code.7370 Program will be eligible to work for Turn 2 U's Joint Venture as software engineers, putting their newly learned skills to work on real client-driven projects and earning industry-comparable wages while serving the remainder of their sentence.

The Turn 2 U Joint Venture will use a sophisticated com-

puter hardware assembly comprising a server cluster, network area storage (NAS), and secure network switching. This hardware will enable stand-alone delivery of all customer projects in a realistic, internet-like fashion while maintaining absolute separation from any connectivity by offenders. Hardware sponsors include Hewlett Packard, Aruba Networks, and Reduxio.

"The work experience gained by these currently incarcerated employees will greatly increase their employability when they parole," said Turn 2 U and TLM Co-Founder, Chris Redlitz. "This Joint Venture essentially guarantees that these men will have marketable job skills, a relevant portfolio, and savings to help them with successful re-entry."

Initially, the program will employ seven offenders, including one project manager, at San Quentin, with plans to hire more trained offenders in the future at both San Quentin and proposed locations at Ironwood State Prison and Folsom Women's Facility.

The Joint Venture Program was established in 1990 upon the passage of Proposition 139, "The Prison Inmate Labor Initiative," a voter initiative aimed at reducing recidivism by providing opportunities for offenders to gain valuable work experience and job skills training. The Joint Venture Program is



Courtesy of CDCR

Students from Code.7370 Program hard at work

established at California's adult institutions, and the Free Venture Program provides similar work experience opportunities at the state of California's juvenile facilities.

Under Joint Venture Program guidelines, offenders are paid a comparable wage that is subject to deductions for federal, state and local taxes. In addition, 20 percent from each of the following categories is deducted from an offender's wages: room and board, inmate trust/canteen account, family support, mandatory savings, and victims' compensation.

"The Joint Venture Program is an exceptional model for public-private partnerships because it benefits businesses, crime victims and taxpayers, while preparing offenders for successful integration back into the community," said CDCR Secre-

tary and Prison Industry Board Chair Scott Kernan. "Having Turn 2 U operating inside San Quentin is a great opportunity for these offenders, particularly when they parole, since a job helps to keep you out of prison. I am very pleased for CDCR to be a part of this innovative program."

The Joint Venture Program and the Code.7370 Program are CDCR rehabilitation programs managed by the California Prison Industry Authority. (CALPIA) CALPIA is a self-supporting state entity that provides training and productive work assignments for approximately 6,500 offenders in California. The cumulative recidivism rate among CALPIA's CTE programs is 7.13%, a success attributed to the job skills and industry certifications obtained by participating in the program.

### THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

- October is the sixth of seven months in a year with 31 days. This year, October has five Sundays, five Mondays and five Saturdays.
- Columbus Day will be observed on Monday, Oct. 10; National Bosses Day is on Sunday, Oct. 16; United Nations Day is on Monday, Oct. 24; and Halloween is on Monday, Oct. 31.
- For Mexican Nationals, the Day of the Race, or El Dia de la Raza, is on Wednesday, Oct. 12 and in Canada, Thanksgiving is on Monday, Oct. 10.
- For the Muslim community, the First of Muharram, or the New Year's Day of the Islamic calendar, begins at sundown on Saturday, Oct. 1 and Ashura begins at sundown on Monday, Oct. 10.
- For the Jewish community, the "Ten Days of Awe" occur during the "High Holy Days" in October. Rosh Hashanah — the autumn festival called the Jewish New Year — begins at sundown on Sunday, Oct. 2 and Yom Kippur — the Day of Atonement — begins at sundown on Monday, Oct. 10.
- For the Christian community, the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi is on Tuesday, Oct. 4, and the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary is on Friday, Oct. 7.
- According to the World Almanac, October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Diversity Awareness Month, and National Popcorn Poppin' Month.
- There are two astrological signs in October: Libra, the sign of the Scales (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) and Scorpio, the sign of the Scorpion (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21).
- According to the Jewelry Industry Council, the October birthstone is the Opal or Tourmaline.



# Two-Hour Race Filled With Challenges for 22 Runners

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Twenty-two runners lined up for the start of a two-hour race around a bustling prison yard for the 1000 Mile Club annual event. More than a dozen men ran for the entire time.

Markelle Taylor ran at a pace to break his own 2015 two-hour record of 18.6875 miles.

"He's run 15 and three-fourth miles with 20 minutes to go," said Coach Frank Ruona. "He'll break his record."

With less than 10 minutes left in the race, an institutional alarm sounded. All incarcerated people must sit on the ground until signaled by correctional officers that the alarm has ended. The alarm took more than four minutes. When Taylor started running again he only completed 18.1 miles.

This race marked the first time Taylor didn't break a 1000 Mile record.

"Stopping and starting is really hard," said Taylor, adding "I didn't give up. I wanted to be



Photo by Raphaele Casale

Volunteers (in black) supporting runners

an example to all those struggling with lupus." Taylor says he always envisions a cause to honor when he races.

For Larry Ford, the run was a test of heart. The 60-year-old said he woke up with a stomach bug and shouldn't have run but decided to anyway.

After running an hour and 30 minutes, he said, "I quit. I'm not feeling it today."

However, with 20 minutes to go, he started running again.

"My brain and body didn't want to go back out there, but my heart wanted to finish the race," said Ford. "I went on pure heart."

Ford completed 13.5 miles.

Sergio Carrillo and Temo Zamora completed more than 15 miles together, using the time to meditate on the word of God.

"I told him, Isaiah 40:30-31, '... even the youths shall faint and be weary, and young men

shall utterly fall; But they that wait upon the Lord renew their strength ... they shall run and not be weary ...," said Carrillo.

Zamora said, "I enjoy running with my brother in Christ and the rest of the group."

Carrillo added, "It makes it easier to run with somebody. He pushes you; you push him."

Chris Skull said he hoped to outrun his training partner, Eddie Herena, for second place in this two-hour run. In a previous 10-mile race, Skull was nine seconds ahead in the final lap but ended up losing to Herena by four seconds.

In the half-marathon, Herena led the whole way, beating Skull by 20 seconds for second place.

Herena didn't run in this race. "I would have gunned Eddie down," said Skull. "He didn't show up; he knows I would have gunned him down."

The running club started in 2005, after Ruona replied to a post on a runner club website by former S.Q. Community Partnership Manager Laura

Bowen-Salzsieder for someone to coach a track club inside San Quentin State Prison.

Ruona says the program has grown considerably since 2005. "We used to have 10 to 15 guys. Now we have about 50 on our roster," Ruona said.

Over the years, Ruona recruited other volunteers from the Tamalpa Runners Club, like Diana Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick said she started coming in about two years after Ruona. Her husband, Tim, joins her in supporting the runners. For this race, they both kept track of laps and passed out cups of water and encouraging words to the runners going around.

"I always wanted to do it, and now I have the time to," said Tim Fitzpatrick. "Running makes people feel better about themselves."

Volunteer Jim Maloney commented, "I've been inspired by the community here, the friendship, the camaraderie, the quality of the people. It's been a really pleasant surprise."

# Asian/Pacific Islanders Battle for Basketball Title on Labor Day

In an effort to promote unity, the Asian/Pacific Islanders sponsored a Labor Day basketball tournament called The Battle of the Blocks.

Three of San Quentin's housing units played against each other in the event. North Block went undefeated in a four-game series, winning the final over West Block, 30-17.

"Throughout the year, the Asians, Islanders and Others community organize basketball tournaments on each holiday," said Vi Chau, the event organizer. "Tournaments give all the guys a chance to compete and have fun. More importantly, it's about coming together as one community."

Four teams competed. Two teams represented West Block, one North Block and one H-Unit. The winner of each full-

court game was the first team to reach 30 points. The H-Unit team failed to make the finals.

West Block had standout players like Rafael Cuevas, Phirank Kim, Kana Uch, Vadim Zhakarchanko and Zitsue Lee, among others. They were coached by George Lopez.

The North Block squad members were Juan Meza, Adnan Khan, Chau, Jonathan Chiu, Eddie de la Pena, Gary Vong, Damon Cooke, Alladin Pangilinan and Sa Tran.

The powerful North Block combination of offensive and



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

North Block basketball team members

defensive players swept its way to the final game, where a West Block team tried to stop them.

In finals, Meza cleaned up the offensive boards, turning

his teammates' misses into baskets. He finished with 5 points and 7 rebounds.

"The key to victory was Los (Meza) on the boards," said Cooke.

Pangilinan added, "The key to victory was playing as a team, playing with passion and trusting your teammates."

Cooke took command of the defensive boards, limiting West Block to a one-shot attempt. Damon led his team with 10 points and 6 rebounds, followed by Khan with 9 points.

Cuevas and Uch tried to keep West Block in the game. They scored 10 and 7 points respectively.

"They (North Block) set good picks, fed their big man, ran back on defense — they did everything and they were more hungry," commented Uch.

Cooke added, "These games teach lessons of humility and learning how to lose gracefully."

Phirak said, "I had fun. It's all about getting together. It was a good day."

—Rahsaan Thomas

# Dodgertown and SQ All-Stars Split Doubleheader

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Staff Writer

It was déjà vu for visiting Los Angeles Dodgertown pitcher Auggie Alfonso, who split a double-header with the San Quentin All-Stars baseball team for the second year in a row.

Dodgertown won the morning game, 13-10, and was on the verge of winning the evening game. They were in the final inning with one All-Star on base and Cleo Cloman at bat. Cloman had a magnificent batting day, going 5 for 5. Dodgertown elected to walk him. Next up was utility player Anthony Denard, who smashed a line drive deep into left field to score both runners for the win.

"That's baseball," said Alfonso. "You just have to shake it off and get ready for the next game."

"I had fun hanging out with the guys, and it was good competition. They are human beings doing their time; some of them learn and some don't."

Last year Alfonso was in the

same position to close out the game but gave up a two-run walk-off homer to split the 2015 double header.

Dodgertown won the morning game this year with a comeback. Down 5-0 in the first game, they went into the third inning and rallied for eight straight runs for an 8-5 lead.

After a walk and a single, Paul Galletti smashed a double for two RBIs to center field. With two more walks and bases loaded, Brian "Red" Dambrosi found a gap in left field for a two-run double.

All-Star pitcher Isaiah Bonilla-Thompson continued to struggle to find the strike zone. He walked two more batters and gave up three singles for runs by Bob Ponce, Mike Gin and first-time visitor Jay Briggs.

The All-Stars regrouped defensively. Thompson-Bonilla found the zone and they tied in the sixth, 8-8.

Anthony "Sadiq" Redwood singled and a Tamon Halfin double brought him home. Cordiare McDonald blasted a home

run over the right-field pole to bring Halfin in for the tie.

"This was great," said McDonald. "After being down (in prison) 10 years, this was a good experience for me. I got to be around great teammates and people who come in and love the game."

Halfin added, "Once we got past the cobwebs, the game became fun. I appreciate the program; it gives you something to look forward to, and we love playing the outside teams."

Dodgertown was able to turn a double play to get out the inning.

In the eighth, Dodgertown Dambrosi opened with a solo homerun over the left-field gate. Gin singled and Alfonso walked. Mike Strong hit a shot up center field for a double to score both runners. Ponce singled in Strong for the 13-8 lead. The All-Stars turned their own double play to get out the inning.

In the bottom of the ninth, the All-Stars' first two batters popped for two outs.

## Sports Stats

### Basketball

Avg. Pts. Per Game (As of Sept.5)

#### Warriors

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Allan McIntosh    | 18.5  |
| Harry "ATL" Smith | 14.91 |
| Tevin Fournette   | 16.4  |
| Anthony Ammons    | 11.1  |

#### Kings

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Thad Fleeton           | 7.4  |
| J. "Mailman" Ratchford | 8.75 |
| Oris "Pep" Williams    | 10   |
| Demond Lewis           | 10   |

#### Green Team

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Air Warmerdam | 45   |
| Evan Fjelds   | 40   |
| Chris Blee    | 23   |
| Johnas Street | 14   |
| Pat Lacey     | 13   |
| Remy Pinson   | 12.4 |
| Kyle Fowlers  | 10.3 |

#### Imago Dei

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Jon Williams  | 27 |
| Teohn Connor  | 29 |
| Steve Diekman | 18 |

#### Trailblazers/Bittermen

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Ryan Steer            | 25      |
| Mark Stapp            | 15.6666 |
| Will Wheatley         | 15.75   |
| Ian Ashcraft-Williams | 14      |



# Green Team Edges SQ Warriors, 97-94, in OT

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

The visiting Green Team posted a 97-94 overtime win over the San Quentin Warriors basketball team.

"It was close — we should have had it in regulation," said Ari "Ari-Automatic" Warmerdam, who scored 45 points for the Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team. The former UC Davis basketball player led all scorers.

"He's a pure shooter," said Warrior Tevin Fournette about Warmerdam. "But next time it ain't going to happen."

With six seconds left in regulation, the Green Team led 86-84 with the ball in Justin Willis' hands to pass inbounds from the sideline. Willis slid over to the left to make the pass and was called for the illegal movement.

The Warrior in-bounded to Harry "ATL" Smith. He power dribbled to the basket for the tying layup, sending the game into overtime.



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

## Tevin Fournette going up on the Green Team

Green Team sponsor and Golden State Warrior accountant Ben Draa coached the game, in his first return to San Quentin this season.

In the extra period, with 32 seconds left, the Warriors were up 92-90. The Green Team got the ball to Warmerdam, who tried to dribble through traffic. Warrior Allan McIntosh stole

the ball. McIntosh and teammate David Lee increased the Warriors' lead from the free-throw line.

However, the Green Team had the ball with five seconds left, down 97-94. Warmerdam had the ball at the top of the key and let it fly for a three-pointer, but it clacked off the rim.

"We stuck with it through it

all," said Fournette. "We stayed on our defense, stayed crashing and came out with the victory."

McIntosh led the Warriors with 29 points, followed by Fournette with 25 points and 19 rebounds, and Smith with 20 points and 18 rebounds.

Fournette also had back-to-back highlight plays in the third quarter. First, he slam-dunked in traffic. Then, on the next possession, he completed an up-and-under lay up.

"He's a great player," said Warmerdam about Fournette. "He commands so much attention because he can do everything. We had a hard time keeping him and ATL out of the paint. When they did miss, they met the ball at the rim."

Warrior Coach Daniel Wright

wasn't impressed with the outcome, which made the Warriors' record against the Green Team a losing 3-4.

"We have not turned the corner," said Wright. "They (Green Team) outplayed us the entire game, except where they turned the ball over in the last 30 seconds, which is uncharacteristic of that team."

Fournette said, "It's time to get back to where we're supposed to be."

During halftime, both teams, as per custom, circled around half court where Green Team sponsor Bill Epling usually opens the ministry talks with a joke. In his absence, Green Team Center Billy Dic skipped the comedy and opened up about his experiences inside San Quentin.

"My first time here a year ago — the love you guys showed me is more than what's going on in the world," Dic said. "If God is love and love is God, then we ain't doing it right out there. You guys are doing it right."

# The Visiting Trailblazers Leave Kings in the Dust

The visiting Trailblazers dusted off the San Quentin Kings basketball team, winning 74-45.

Led by Ian Ashcraft-Williams, the Trailblazers never looked back after taking the lead in the first quarter. The 32 year-old Williams finished with 20 points and 17 rebounds. He played for Washington College in St. Louis.

"I think it was the third quarter (that made the difference)," said Ashcraft-Williams. "They usually come out strong but we were able to weather the storm."

The Kings' offense left a lot to be desired. The highest scoring King was D. "Zayd" Nickolson with 8 points. No other

King scored more than five.

Meanwhile all the Trailblazers scored more than five, including Ryan Steer's 19 with 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals and a block; and 5 rebounds; Pete Giese with 12 points, 11 boards, 1 assist, 1 steal and a block, and coach and sponsor Ted Saltveit with 10 points.

At the start of the second quarter, Trailblazer Aidan Coffino rolled his ankle so badly he couldn't continue to play. His teammates carried him to the bench and put ice on his ankle, where he watched his team carry on to victory.

At halftime, both teams met at half court to hear a member from each team say a few words. Trailblazers Steven Lamb said,

"I see you guys working on yourselves, and that's something we don't do enough of out there (society) — and you do it with so much class."

From the Kings, stat keeper Edward Moss talked about what being part of the Kings does for him.

"Basketball takes my mind away from my issues...I still come and spend my free time for free—even though most of the time we lose in the last two minutes—because we are brothers. Timothy Long helps me with my math; Demond (Lewis) encourages me. I see a change in him. I learn a lot from these dudes all courtesy of basketball."

—Rahsaan Thomas



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

## Ted Saltveit defending Tare "Cancun" Beltran

# SQ All-Stars Baseball Team Honors Lieutenant S. Robinson

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Staff Writer

In a fierce battle, the San Quentin All-Stars baseball team edged out the visiting Bay Area Cubs 8-7 in an exhibition game honoring Correctional Lt. Sam Robinson.

This special day was a way for the team to show their appreciation and recognize Lt. Robinson's commitment to providing a rehabilitative sports program.

"Lt. Robinson has always gone the extra mile to make sure we had a game," said Terry Burton, All-Stars incarcerated assistant coach. "He has been the best liaison between the administration and the program because he has always been fair with us."

Isaiah Bonilla-Thompson, All-Stars inmate assistant coach and pitcher, added "Lt. Robinson has been a major support and help through the challenges. He makes sure the people get cleared to come in and he helps publicize the program for those who want to experience this."

The team presented Lt. Rob-



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

## Lt. S. Robinson throws opening pitch

inson a baseball bat signed by all the members, and Robinson threw out the first pitch to start the game.

The All-Stars took a quick 5-0 lead in the first inning. David Fraire started the rally with a line-drive double through the left-field gap.

Tamon Halfin singled to move Fraire to third, setting up a Trevor Bird double to deep cen-

ter field to score both runners.

Don Spence reached base on an error, and James Wortham singled. Then newcomer Branden Terrell smashed a double to bring in the runners.

Rubin Harper singled to score Terrell, before the Cubs were able to adjust defensively to get out the inning.

The All-Stars extended the lead to 7-0 in the bottom of the fifth.

"It has been a good season," said Fraire. "I got a chance to get familiar with people and learned that everybody's got a story. Communication is the key that helps you to relax a little — it feels good to smile and not to have to mean mug."

Elliot Smith, a volunteer sponsor and Cubs head coach, added, "We want to build a program on fun that includes everybody from the players, umpires, scorekeepers, all the way down to the hecklers."

"I'm glad Sam is getting recognized for his work throughout the year. The outside community needs to get this experience with the inmates, to get to know who they are before they are-

leased."

In the sixth, Smith singled to rally the Cubs. Steve Gray doubled to score the pitch runner for Smith. After another player singled, Dan Rodgers smashed a two-run homer over the left-field gate. They scored two more times to close the lead 7-6.

"I was looking for the fast ball," said Rodgers. "This is a competitive atmosphere, but fun. I've never been to a place where you hit a homerun and the other team gives you high-fives. That says something about this program to have respect at that level."

Gray added, "Coming here is my escape from the other leagues I play in. It brings you back to reality and gives the guys a sense of normalcy for their transition back to society."

All-Stars scored one run in the eighth before they were stopped. The Cubs answered in the ninth with a run but went out on a pop-fly to end the Aug. 13 game.

Old-time S.Q. Coach Kent Philpott attended the game. He coached back in 2000 when the

team was known as the S.Q. Pirates.

"I never had any fear coming here," said Philpott. "I grew accustomed to dealing with the guys and understood what they did was just a snapshot in time."

Philpott has been coming in since 1969 as a pastor and he shared his history about working with Chaplain Earl Smith and the baseball program.

"Back in '69 it was a real dangerous group of guys; you didn't have that many Blacks then," said Philpott. "Then in 1985 you had a different group of guys. Now San Quentin is the pearl of the prisons and for guys to make it here, you know they are working on their change."

All-Stars inmate Assistant Coach John "Yah Ya" Parratt added, "We are thankful and feel blessed that Lt. Robinson takes out his time for this program. He could be home with his family on these weekends."

Steve Reichardt, a volunteer and sponsor, concluded, "Sam is a best friend of the program; we couldn't ask for a better person in his position. It's an honor to call him a friend."



# Sitting in the Fire With the New Graduates of VOEG

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

The song "Lean on Me" set the tone for the 2016 graduating class of San Quentin's Victim Offender Education Group program.

Executive Director Billie Mizell and Michael Adams harmonized the 1980s classic oldie by Bill Withers before nearly 125 people in the Protestant Chapel.

Mizell said she wanted the audience to remember, "No one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show."

To honor the 2016 graduates who completed 18 to 24 months of what they called "sitting in the fire," Mizell invited former participants and graduates Tommy "Shakur" Ross, Manuel Murillo and Arthur Robinson to share stories of how VOEG affected and impacted their lives.

Shakur spoke about his unique experience of sharing a circle with other prisoners and outside facilitators for over a year and a half.

"This circle of friends helped me develop intimate friendships and positive relationships; however, the most impactful exercise for me was the timeline curriculum. This exercise helped me identify the events, the feelings behind these events and the behavior as a result of those feelings."

Manuel talked about the pressures of masculinity in Mexican culture that prevented him from sharing his story before participating in the program.

"For 50 years I wanted to cry again because of my grandmother's death. I finally could cry, after I did the timeline. After that day, I cry for everything. I go for my GED next. I promised my mother."



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

## VOEG's Graduating class of 2016 and their facilitators

Arthur Robinson has been incarcerated 38 years for murder. For 35 years he went from group to group, seeking to impress the parole board with certificates.

"When I learned about empathy, I learned how to feel another person's pain," Robinson said. "VOEG helped me learn insight into my criminal thinking. It allowed me to sit in a victim's panel. When I learned the monster I'd been, my healing began. There's nothing more that I'd like to do with my time than to bear witness to the courage you men have shown."

Director Mizell told the audience the men graduating voluntarily signed up for hard work and the discomfort of sitting in the fire.

Mizell said, "This room is filled with people who have life sentences and still chose to say, 'OK, there's always tomorrow. I can be a better version of myself tomorrow, even though that is not what is expected of me. I can put in hours and hours of hard work into my personal trans-

formation today and do it again tomorrow. I can believe that there is a tomorrow even though I have been told my tomorrows no longer belong to me. I will get up tomorrow and put on my blues, eat my peanut butter jelly sandwich, care about a better future for myself, my family, and my community. And I will do that in the face of the most arduous obstacles. That is wisdom."

This year's graduates were Miguel Moreira-Alfardo, Eric Boles, Eduardo Delapena, Eddie DeWeaver, Andrew Gazzeny, Eddie Herena, Derrick Holloway, Forrest Jones, Nguyenly Nguyen, Alexei Ruiz, Phillip Senegal and Darrell Williams.

DeWeaver said, "Silence perpetrates pain, and all programs that break this tradition of silence promote growth, healing and positive change. I'm immensely blessed to have been able to participate in VOEG and The Next Step."

Andrew Gazzeny said, "VOEG is chemistry. Your attitude toward the facilitators and

other members and their attitude toward you have a definite effect on your overall experience. It has a healing effect on your existing traumas."

Derrick Holloway added, "Thank God for the opportunity to have been a part of VOEG and The Next Step."

The year Herena spent in VOEG provided him with "the space and place for me to tell the story of my incarceration. Through this process, I was able to see and understand the impact my crime had on my victims and community. It ultimately showed me the ripple effects one decision can make."

Forrest Jones' year-long participation in the program has provided effective tools in helping him discover the underlying causes of his criminal behavior.

These stories of transformation are the core of VOEG's success. To make them even more poignant to the new graduates, the director introduced Robert "Red" Frye, who spent 25 years incarcerated.

This former inmate struggled with the elements of his crime until he met survivor Bonnie Wills. He talked about the impact she had on him while he was in prison. Bonnie was able to share with him the pain of losing her murdered son. They both wore a lizard pin on their collars because her son liked reptiles.

This year's program achievements were highlighted by Program Director Karena Montag. Mizell called her an assiduous and indefatigable humanitarian, a real "genius and a delight."

"This is all really impossible to put into words," Montag said. "You have to be there. Thank you for what all of you do to support Insight Prison Project." She added a special thanks to Phoeun "Sane" You for being the lead inmate IPP facilitator.

The evening's closing ceremonies belonged to "White Eagle," who reflected that "man did not weave the web; he is but a strand in it," and then offered a solo flute performance.

**NOTE: This is a notice from CDCR to all CDCR prisoners. THIS IS HOWEVER NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY SAN QUENTIN NEWS. AVISO: Esta es una información de parte de CDCR. Para todos los prisioneros. ESTO NO ES UNA CONFIRMACION DE SAN QUENTIN NEWS.**

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