

# MARKING TIME:

**PRISON ARTS  
AND ACTIVISM  
RESOURCE GUIDE**

**Compiled and edited by  
The Institute for  
Research on Women**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> About “Marking Time” and about this publication	17	<b>BEHIND BARS IN THE ART CLASSROOM</b> Restorative Arts and Aging in Prison <b>Ron Levine, Anne Katz, and Eileen Hongo</b> Walk a Mile in my Shoes: A Workshop at Mountainview <b>J.D. McGuire</b>
2	<b>CARCERAL OPTICS</b> The World in a Prison Cell <b>Treacy Ziegler</b>	26	<b>NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS</b>
4	<b>FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE</b> On the “War at Home” <b>Bonnie Kerness</b> Loving Those We Fear <b>Eleanor Novak</b>	28	<b>RESOURCES</b>
10	<b>FROM INSIDE LOOKING OUT</b> Cellblock Visions <b>Phyllis Kornfeld</b> More than a Rap Sheet <b>Family Crisis Services</b> The Truth About Me (poems) <b>Sarah, Joleen, and Becky</b>	51	<b>“MARKING TIME” DIRECTORY OF PARTICIPANTS</b>

**The Institute for Research on Women (IRW)** advances innovative feminist scholarship on women, gender, and sexuality, and its programming is supported by the School of Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Chancellor at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. For more information, email: [irw@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:irw@rci.rutgers.edu)

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## INTRODUCTION

This resource guide was inspired by “Marking Time: Prison Arts and Activism,” a multi-component project whose goal was to bring together scholars, writers, artists, and activists from across the nation and from overseas to explore the cultural aspects of imprisonment through a focus on art produced by prisoners and in response to mass incarceration. Organized by the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University (IRW), the project included a conference on prison art and activism—the first of its kind—which was held on October 8-10, 2014, and involved three days of panels, workshops, lectures, film screenings, poetry readings, performances, and presentations by more than 130 artists, activists, scholars, and community groups. Reginald Dwayne Betts, poet and author of *A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison* and *Shahid Reads His Own Palm*, gave the keynote address.

In addition to the conference, “Marking Time” incorporated an art exhibit held on six sites throughout the city of New Brunswick, NJ, showcasing the work of a wide range of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated artists. A third component of the “Marking Time” project involved prison-based public education. In collaboration with NJ STEP, IRW supported a 3-day art workshop at Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility in Annandale, New Jersey. We include a description of this workshop along with a selection of the artwork created by prisoners at Mountainview in this publication. Finally, as part of our commitment to encourage the development of networks and support for prisoners, artists, scholars, and organizations working in the field of prison arts, we have created this resource guide.

“Marking Time” was convened by IRW Director Nicole R. Fleetwood and IRW Associate Director Sarah Tobias, and made possible by a grant from the New Jersey

Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. “Marking Time” was also made possible by generous support from the Puffin Foundation Ltd.

The “Marking Time” conference and exhibition would not have taken place without the support of our many co-sponsors: Alfa Art Gallery; American Friends Service Committee’s Prison Watch Program; Art Library-Rutgers New Brunswick; Associate Campus Dean of Douglass Residential College; Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities; Department of American Studies, Rutgers-New Brunswick; Department of History, Rutgers-New Brunswick; Heldrich Hotel; Institute for Women and Art; Mountainview Program; New Brunswick Public Library; Office of the Chancellor of Rutgers-New Brunswick; Office of the Executive Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick; Prison Creative Arts Project at the University of Michigan; PUEG Center at UNAM (National University of Mexico); Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts; School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers-Newark; and Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers-New Brunswick. We are grateful to J.D. McGuire for leading our art workshop at Mountainview, and to Donald Roden and Chris Agans from the Rutgers Mountainview Program, and to Margaret Quern Atkins and Jerri Flippen from NJ STEP for making it possible.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who submitted materials for this resource guide. This publication was edited by Sarah Tobias. Special thanks are due to IRW intern Katherine Ritter, whose meticulous and extensive work on this document has enabled its publication.

# Carceral Optics

## THE WORLD IN A PRISON CELL

Treacy Ziegler

The first art class that I volunteer to teach in this prison is held in an older 1920s vintage building on the far side of the prison yard. The light is harsh in this building, but I like the building. It reminds me of a Northern European sanatorium. I've never been in a sanatorium and can't even say that I've ever seen one. However, when I imagine a sanatorium, this prison is how it looks.

In this prison building there is very little on the walls and only minimum furniture. The building is pure space, as if emptiness is the cure.

I like empty buildings. Perhaps the emptiness reminds me of an unmarked canvas that in its blankness offers a hope of movement to the artist—movement, because hope in general is too vague and therefore potentially stagnant. When I first built my art studio, there was nothing in it; the studio existed as a cement floor, white walls and a ceiling. I spent hours drawing the expanse of the studio, knowing that soon objects would compromise the space.

The same was true of my house when it was first built. The first floor of the house is one large room with a center height of 20 feet. At first the house contained few objects to detract from this pure space, other than a piano, a table, and two plastic chairs. The house did not consist of objects; it consisted of space.

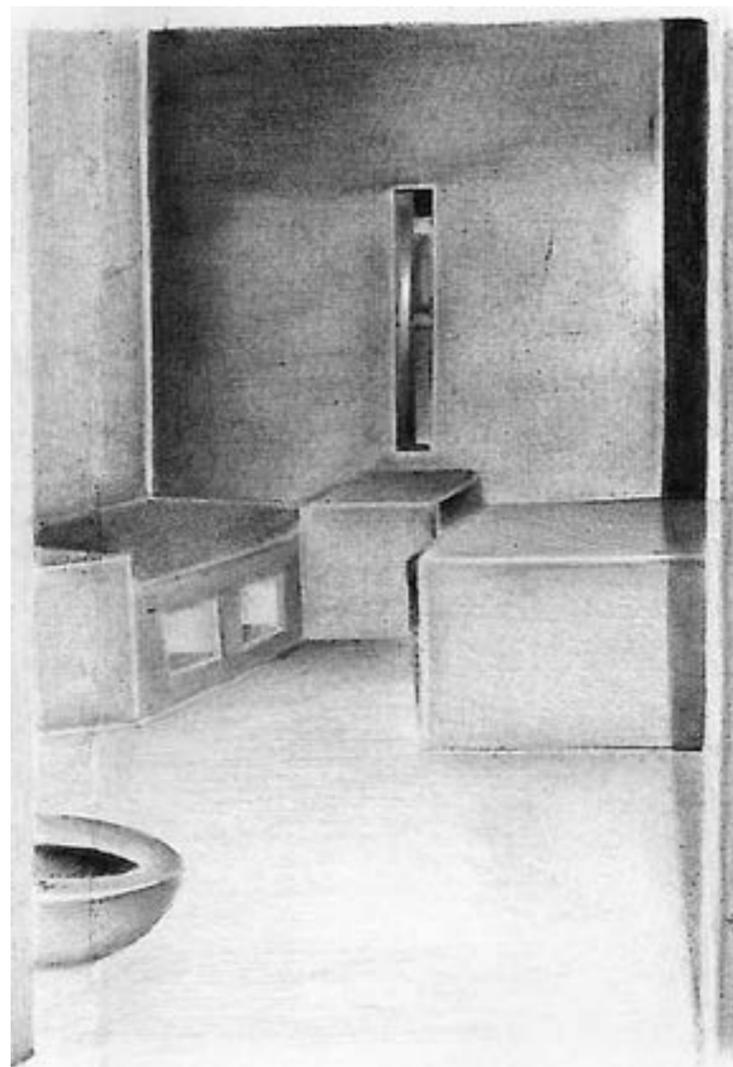
Unfortunately now, the space is a collection of things: books, a sofa, oversized comfortable chair, the same piano, two tables, and chairs inherited from my mother-in-law. The expansive center ceiling 20 feet above the floor of this large room has collected 15 years of cobwebs. My house lost its initial pure space but gained the patina of time.

### Why artists like prisons

So when I visit this prison I'm drawn to its empty space. Of course, I don't live there. I did tell the superintendent on my initial tour that when he has freed all the prisoners, the artists could move into the prison, occupying the cells as studios. I have seen installations at old prisons, so I

assume that the fascination with prison space is common to artists.

Living in prison is theoretical to me. But before falling asleep one night, I imagined the horrid, claustrophobic sensation of being in a small cell, never to be allowed out, and never to move around. What does one do for hours, living alone in solitary confinement? In this split second jolt I felt why Billy, a student participating in my through-the-mail art curriculum, hung himself after six years in solitary confinement with only one daily hour outside his cell.



A drawing of his cell in solitary confinement shortly before he committed suicide.

Billy Sell

Empty space that I choose voluntarily is different than empty space that is forced upon an individual.

### Animals in silhouette

In this prison room where the light is harsh and I teach face-to-face with the prisoners, students are drawing. I take advantage of the harshness and demonstrate the two sides of light. On the single, long table I arrange a menagerie of well-rendered plastic toy animals—camels, elephants, cows, lions, pigs, fish, horses, rhinoceroses, bulls, dogs, okapi, swans, giraffes, cobras, and zebras.

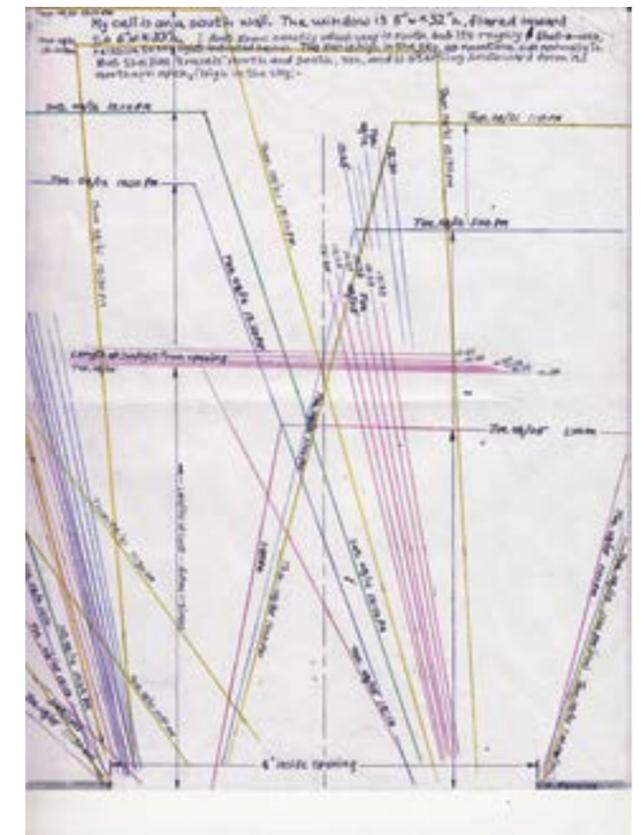
The animals take over the entire top of the long table. I point out to the prisoner-students sitting on the far side of the table—where they face the harsh light coming through the large windows—that they are seeing the animals' silhouettes. From their side of the table, with the harsh light as the backdrop, all form within the toy animal is totally destroyed. The students can only see the relationship between "light-on" (the "negative" space surrounding the toys) and "light-off" (the toy). One prisoner jokes how he certainly understands the light-off part, implying that his mental light is always off. That's good, I tell him, because we're not using our brains—only our eyes.

If the prisoner-student sits on the far side looking into the light, he cannot possibly draw form unless he mentally represents the animal as he thinks it should be represented. He might remember that the horse has an elbow, but he doesn't see that elbow in this darkness of the silhouette. I want him to draw what he sees, not what he thinks.

### What you think you see

As a mental representation, the artist doesn't experience the world through drawing; the artist makes a representation of the world through what he/she expects theoretically. This is a point that I need to make over and over again: the difference between the world as a representation and the world of experience.

If the students sat here at the table drawing this menagerie of toy animals all day long, they would experience how light and shadow constantly make visible the forms of the toy animals; new forms are seen and old forms become less visible as the light changes. If the prisoners sat at this table looking at these animals into the next day, obviously they would experience a



Sunlight notations in his cell recorded over a month.

Daniel Perkins

repetition of daylight with more, less, or similar intensity than today's harsh light.

Light returns not as a reminder but as a challenge to see the world differently. If we did sit at this table for days, each day's assignment would be to draw something new as the light and shadow are cast upon the animals. Or we might include the entire room into the discovery process.

### Transcending boredom

At some point, memory may be, and usually is, warranted in art. But for now, the drawing focuses on the immediate experience of light and shadow.

In another prison, a student draws the prison yard poles that he can see from his rec pen, that kennel-like structure off a prison cell that permits the prisoner to walk three feet out of his cell. For weeks, this prisoner sits in his rec pen, drawing the light upon the poles and

the shadows this light casts from these poles. This prisoner is serving a life sentence and comes to see the light, shadow and poles as sundial-like structures marking time for him; an incarcerated Stonehenge.

Eventually, the prisoner becomes bored from drawing the cast shadows of the poles. When the seasons change, he realizes that the light has changed. It's more yellow, lower on the horizon, and again he begins drawing the ever-changing light and shadow patterns cast by the poles.

"All these years," a prisoner serving a life sentence writes to me, "I have been creating art to get away from this place. You are asking, however, for me to go into this experience of actual living; to move through this space in order to create art."

Yes, I am. The act of drawing, even in prison, gives access to an experience of one's world. Prisoners, like most people, typically think that drawing is "about" something—a picture of something. But when drawing is the process in which the artist discovers the world, it becomes a dynamic experience. Patterns of light and shadow are merely one visual affirmation of infinite, perpetual change. In this experience, the prisoner-artist doesn't enter the same prison cell twice.

An Open Window Project/Prisoner Express project, in partnership with the Center For Transformative Action, affiliated with Cornell University, [www.anopenwindowproject.org](http://www.anopenwindowproject.org) [www.prisonerexpress.org](http://www.prisonerexpress.org)

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## Fighting for Justice

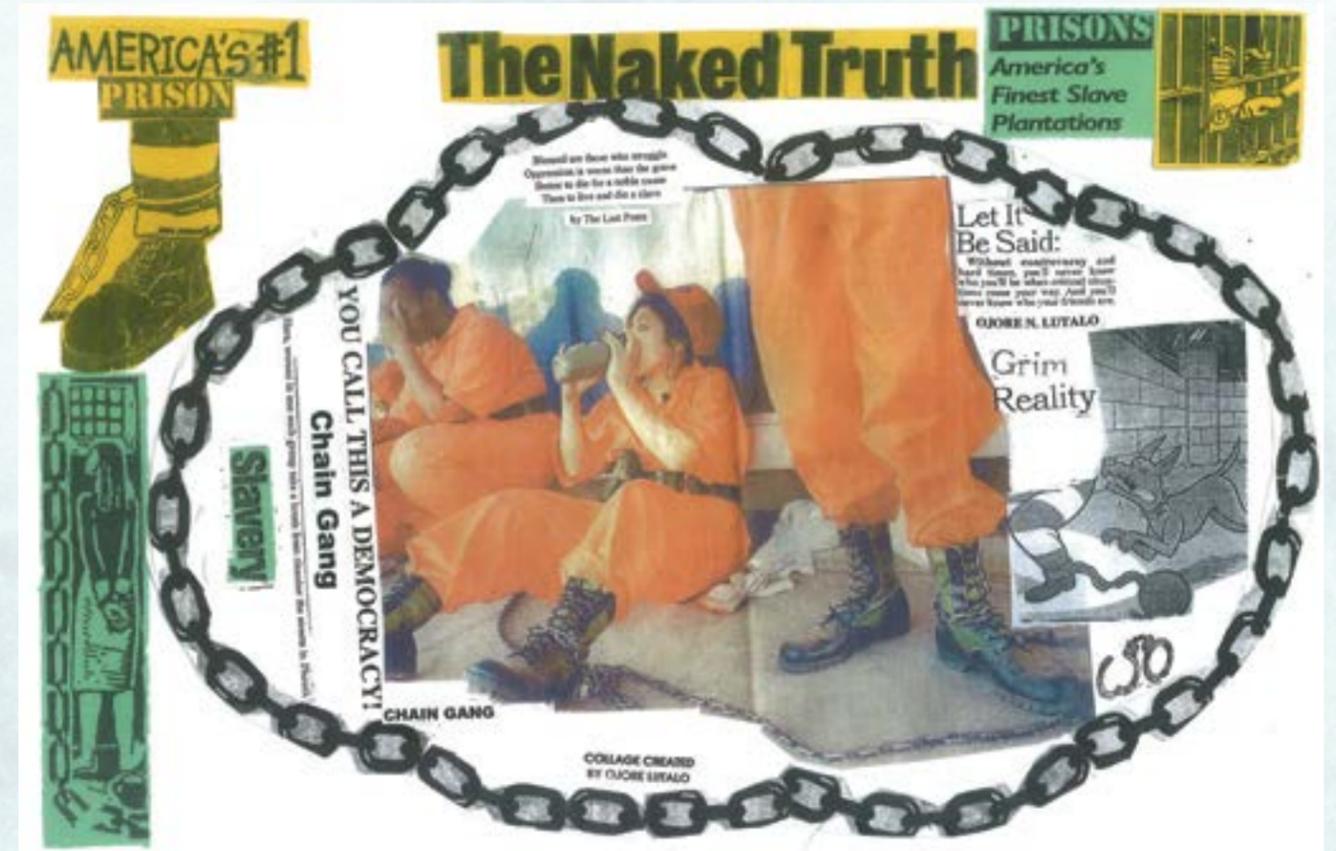
### ON THE "WAR AT HOME" Bonnie Kerness

My early observations of oppression in this country began when I was 12 watching television and seeing children of African descent my age in the South being hosed by police and bitten by dogs for trying to go to school. I spent ten years in the civil rights movement, then moved north and began working with the American Friends Service Committee, the social action arm of the Religious Society of Friends, the Quakers, who have a 300-year history of commitment in dealing with human rights issues with prisoners. I serve as a human rights advocate on behalf of men, women, and children in prison throughout the US, coordinating Prison Watch for the AFSC in Newark. Many of the men, women and children that I take testimony from call their imprisonment the "war at home."

In the criminal justice system, the politics of the police, the politics of the courts, the politics of the prison system and the politics of the death penalty are a manifestation of the racism and classism which governs the lives of all of us. Every part of the US criminal justice system falls most heavily on the poor and people of color, including

the fact that slavery is mandated and institutionalized in prisons by the 13th Amendment of the US Constitution, which reads: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States." While most of us don't give this amendment a second thought, it is at the core of how the labor of slaves was transformed into what people in prison call neo-slavery. The use of prison labor occurs throughout the country and is an integral part of what we have come to know as the "Prison Industrial Complex." If you call the NJ Bureau of Tourism you are likely talking to a prisoner at the Edna Mahon Correctional Institution for Women who is earning 23 cents an hour. Involuntary forced labor in prisons is every day real for more than 2 million men and women.

African descended, Latino and Aboriginal young people tell us that the police feel like an occupation army in their communities. They speak about school systems being used to feed young people of color into youth detention, jails, and prisons where those bodies are suddenly worth



The Naked Truth  
Ojore Lutalo

a fortune. People have said to me that the criminal justice system doesn't work. I've come to believe exactly the opposite—that it works perfectly, just as slavery did, as a matter of economic and political policy. How is it that a 15-year old in Newark who the country labels worthless to the economy, who has no hope of getting a job or affording college—can suddenly generate 20 to 30 thousand dollars a year once trapped in the criminal justice system? The expansion of prisons, parole, probation, the court and police systems has resulted in an enormous bureaucracy which has been a boon to everyone from architects to food vendors—all with one thing in common—a pay check earned by keeping human beings in cages. The criminalization of poverty is a lucrative business and we have replaced the social safety net with a dragnet.

There is no contradiction that prisons are both hugely expensive and very profitable. Just like with military spending, the cost is public and the profits are private.

Privatization in the Prison Industrial Complex includes companies which run prisons for profit while at the same time gleaning profits from forced labor. In the State of New Jersey, food and medical services are provided by corporations with a profit motive. One recent explosion of private industry is the partnering of Corrections Corporation of America with the federal government to detain close to 1 million undocumented people. Using public monies to enrich private citizens is the history of capitalism at its most exploitive.

I want to share the voice of one young woman who said, "I was 12 so they put me in isolation. I heard children screaming. I saw boys get strung out on meds. They make you take sleeping stuff in needles. They used pepper spray on this girl who was fighting directly in her mouth and she couldn't breathe. They kept hitting her. We told them that she had asthma, but they wouldn't listen."

The US spends less than any other industrialized nation on nurturing its children. In spite of dismal poverty rates, violent juvenile crime has been declining for years. Yet at least 43 states have passed laws making it easier for children to be tried as adults. We can't escape the similarities with chattel slavery here as well. Not only are these mostly black and brown children taken from their families, they lose any chance for a future of their own choosing.

The voices of adult prisoners are haunting: a social worker at Utah State Prison wrote, "John was directed to leave the strip cell and a urine soaked pillow case was placed over his head like a hood. He was walked, shackled and hooded to a different cell where he was placed in a device called 'the chair'....he was kept in the chair for over 30 hours, being forced to urinate and defecate on his own hands which were tucked under him."

Women who contact the AFSC describe conditions of confinement which include enduring sexual abuse by staff with one woman saying, "That was not part of my sentence to perform oral sex with officers." Some of the most poignant letters I get are from prisoners writing on behalf of the mentally ill—like the man in California who spread feces over his body. The guards' response to this was to put him in a bath so hot it boiled 30% of the skin off him.

These past years have been full of complaints from prisoners and their families, describing inhumane conditions including cold, filth, callous medical care, extended isolation often lasting years, use of devices of torture, harassment, brutality, and racism. I have received vivid descriptions and drawings of four and five point restraints, restraint hoods, restraint belts, restraint beds, stun grenades, stun guns, stun belts, spit hoods, tethers, and waist and leg chains. Often the worst torment people testify to is the psychological assault of "no touch torture" which can include humiliation, sleep deprivation, sensory disorientation, extreme light or dark, extreme cold or heat, extended solitary confinement including other forms of intentional placement situations. This is a systematic attack on all human stimuli.

In the mid- 1980s the American Friends Service Committee received a letter from Ojore Lutalo who had been placed in the Management Control Unit at Trenton State Prison. He asked what a control unit was, why he

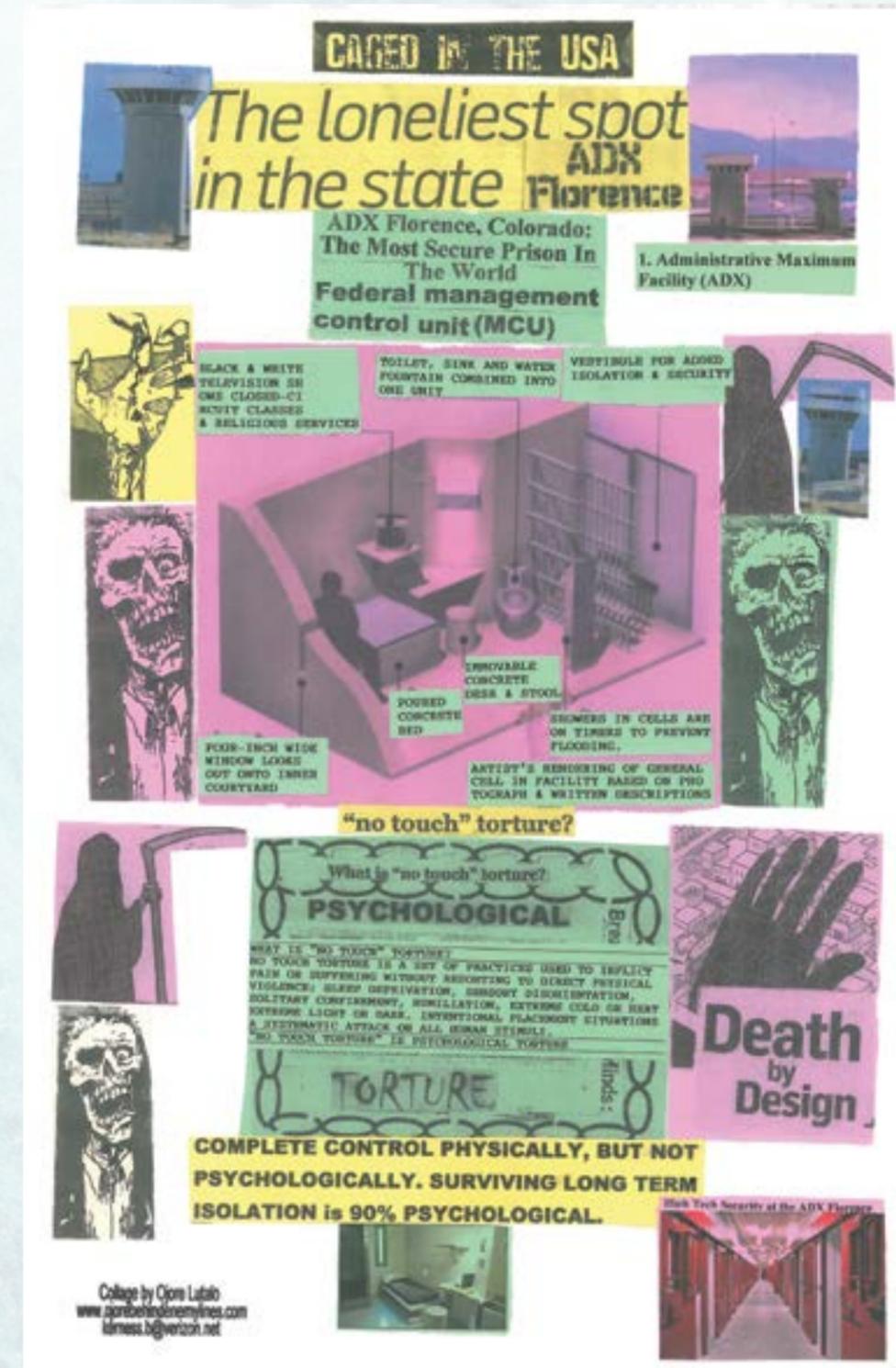
was in there and how long he would have to stay. Some of the answers to those questions would unfold over the next quarter of a century that we monitored and advocated on behalf of Ojore.

"How do you describe desperation to someone who is not desperate?" began one letter to me from Ojore, who went on to depict everyone in the Control Unit being awakened by guards dressed in riot gear holding barking dogs at 1 a.m. every other morning. Once awakened, the prisoners were forced to strip, gather their belongings while feeling the dogs straining at their leashes snapping at their private parts. He described being terrorized, intimidated, and the humiliation of being naked not knowing whether the masked guards were male or female. If we think back to slavery and to images of the civil rights movement we know that dogs have been used as a device of torture for hundreds of years in the US.

Ojore spent 22 years, day after day, week after week, and year after year in NJ State Prison's Management Control Unit, without being charged with any infraction. I challenge my intern students to spend four hours in their bathroom, and they don't make it. Ojore not only made it, he managed to create, mentor and teach through what he called "propaganda," which he would send out to me to share. His social and political commentary on prisons, what was happening to him, and his refusal to be silenced by the horror of his circumstances taught us all.

Prolonged solitary confinement in the form of control units, security threat group management units, special needs units, and communications management units, etc. has been a long time concern for many prison activists, on both sides of the walls. Control units surfaced during the 70s when many in my generation genuinely believed we were free to dissent politically. It was during these tumultuous years of the civil rights era when large numbers of activists found themselves in US prisons. Sensory deprivation was used with imprisoned members of the Black Panther Party, Puerto Rican Independentistas, members of the American Indian Movement, the Chicano movement, white anti-imperialists, civil rights activists, and members of the Black Liberation Army.

Current efforts to expand the solitary confinement population involve the alleged spread of gang problems in the US. The AFSC began receiving letters from



ADX Federal Control Unit C  
Ojore Lutalo

people in street organizations placed in units called Security Threat Group Management Units, complaining of extreme isolation, brutality and racial profiling. The physical and chemical abuse in gang units is infamous to those of us who monitor the torment that these young people of color experience daily. The progression of the use of isolation is most recently known as “Communications Management Units,” which are specifically designed to restrict the communications of imprisoned Muslims with their families, the media and the outside world. This treatment of Islamic prisoners is replicated in US secret prisons throughout the world where almost all of those kept in such places are people of color.

The transition from slavery to Black Codes to convict leasing to the Jim Crow laws to the wars on poverty and political activism has been a seamless evolution of political and social incapacitation of the poor and people of color. The sophisticated fascism of the practices of stop and frisk, charging people in inner cities with “wandering,” driving and walking while black, zip code racism—these and many other de facto practices all serve to keep our prisons full. In a system where over 60% of those who are imprisoned are people of color, where 58% of African youth are sent to adult prisons, where black and brown women are 69% more likely to be imprisoned, the concept of color blindness doesn’t exist.

In a system where 95% of prisoners return to our communities, the impact of these practices is felt far beyond prisons. For more than 25 years, I have counselled people re-entering society from prisons, jails, and youth detention facilities. The prognosis for staying out of prison is poor with over 60% of people returning. Prisons are often traumatizing places in the lack of feeling, concern and opportunities for self-improvement. Complex issues of reunification of families at the same time as learning how to build a life make re-entry an

incredibly difficult period. How do you teach someone to rid themselves of degradation? How long does it take to teach people to feel safe, a sense of empowerment in a world where they often come home emotionally and physically damaged and unemployable? There are many reasons that ex-prisoners do not make it—paramount among them is that they are not supposed to succeed.

The conditions and practices that the imprisoned testify to are in violation of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Convention Against Torture, and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination—all international treaties which the US has signed. US prison practices also fit the United Nations definition of genocide, which with this country has a long history. If we dig deeper into US criminal justice practices, the political function they serve is inescapable. Police, the courts, the prison system, and the death penalty all serve as social control mechanisms. The economic function they serve is equally chilling. Just as in the era of chattel slavery, there is a class of people dependent on bodies of color as a source for income. The Department of Corrections is more than a set of institutions. It is also a state of mind. That state of mind led to Abu Ghraib, Bagram, Guantanamo, and what is going on in US prisons right this moment. You cannot give me a reason for the testimonies of the men, women, and children that come into my life every single day. You cannot give me a reason for what happened to Ojore.

*A version of this essay was first published in [Acting in Faith: Connecting Friends to the work of AFSC](http://www.afsc.org/friends/profound-spiritual-crisis-prison-voices-call-change) on April 18, 2014, <http://www.afsc.org/friends/profound-spiritual-crisis-prison-voices-call-change>*

## LOVING THOSE WE FEAR

### Eleanor Novek

If he were alive today, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would certainly see the national epidemic of hyper-incarceration as a civil rights issue. Not only does the United States imprison more of its citizens per capita than any other nation in the world, but it does so in a racially discriminatory manner: its prison population is more than half Black and Hispanic. Young African American men in particular are targeted for arrest, investigation, and incarceration. The cycle of marginalization imposed on these communities creates succeeding generations of urban poor.

Analysts, such as Marc Mauer of The Sentencing Project and many others, attribute these trends largely to the War on Drugs and other “tough on crime” policies. As public opinion shifted during the 1970s and 80s from faith in rehabilitation to a desire for punishment, US policy makers found a ready audience for their narratives of black crime and white fear, as citizens embraced the growth of the prison-industrial complex in the mistaken belief that it would make their communities safer. And thus, over the last three decades, American society has cast out millions of its sons and daughters.

Dr. King, who was jailed 30 times for his activism, would recognize the tragic folly of this position. His speeches and writings often focused on the divine commandment to love one’s neighbor as the “invisible, inner law which etches on [our] hearts the conviction that all men are brothers and that love is mankind’s most potent weapon for personal and social transformation.” (*Strength to Love*) Selfless love, also called agápe, includes a deep-seated spirit of non-reciprocal giving that embraces all human beings, particularly those who are suffering. King insisted that all people could sense this deep connection among human beings and be governed by “something in the universe that unfolds for justice.”

If we were to view the nation’s prisoners with agápe, we would experience them not as monsters, but as complicated and valuable people. We would acknowledge the profound human suffering that takes place in our overcrowded penitentiaries: the humiliations, outrages, and brutalities that make up daily life behind bars. We would acknowledge the racism inherent in our criminal justice system and grieve for the damage it has caused in our communities. As did Isaiah, who felt called to “bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty

to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound,” (Isaiah 61:1) we would not rest until we embraced, in full economic and social equality, those whom we now fear, marginalize, and condemn.

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is a contemporary organization that operates under King’s concept of agápe. AVP is an international volunteer network that uses experience-based workshops to develop people’s natural abilities to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence. It introduces methods for reaching consensus and compromise, resolving conflicts rather than simply reacting to them, and developing communication skills to de-escalate potentially violent confrontations. AVP workshops are held in some 30 states and 50 nations around the world, not only in prisons, but also in schools, churches, community centers, shelters, displaced persons camps, and other locations. See [www.avpusa.org](http://www.avpusa.org) for more details.

When Dr. King spoke at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in 1957, he encouraged his audience to build “the beloved community” by forgiving and loving its enemies, transforming them into friends. The guiding philosophy of AVP is based on this same transforming power, defined by Larry Aspey and Karen Eppler as an attitude in which a person identifies deeply with all of humanity. When approaching a stranger, no matter how antagonistic, “If we reverence their potential, we can break down the barriers which prevent us and them from influencing each other. Are we willing to learn ... to relate ourselves sympathetically to those of whose actions we disapprove? Until we do this, their minds are closed to us.” (*Transforming Power for Peace*)

Today’s AVP workshops keep Dr. King’s philosophy alive, offering a blueprint for a wider transformation. If incarcerated men and women can learn to see one another as valued members of a community, then so can those who condemn them. As Dr. King knew, people who have feared and harmed each other can learn to forgive and trust one another; it was his dream and his conviction. For this to happen today, the spiritual movements of agápe and reconciliation must be accompanied by a material movement of equality, social inclusion, and justice. The nation will move a step closer to that when it repudiates the destructive racism of the prison-industrial complex.

*This column was first published in [Aurora’s Voice](http://aurorasvoice.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121:loving-those-we-fear&catid=6:freedom-fighting&Itemid=11) on July 7, 2012, [http://aurorasvoice.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=121:loving-those-we-fear&catid=6:freedom-fighting&Itemid=11](http://aurorasvoice.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121:loving-those-we-fear&catid=6:freedom-fighting&Itemid=11)*

## From Inside Looking Out

### CELLBLOCK VISIONS

Images from a collection of artwork by prisoners, organized and directed by Phyllis Kornfeld.



Prison Art Class, Charles Mosby



Vase, Yolanda Rivera



Father Time, [Ronnie White](#)

## MORE THAN A RAP SHEET

In 2002, Family Crisis Services (Cumberland County Maine's domestic violence agency) conducted a study which showed that approximately 95% of incarcerated women were currently or previously in an abusive intimate relationship. Recognizing the connection between female incarceration and domestic violence, Family Crisis Services began offering support groups for incarcerated women at the Cumberland County Jail and Maine Correctional Center and continues to do so now in 2015. Family Crisis Services is one of only a handful of domestic violence agencies in the country to offer such programs.



Since 2007, Family Crisis Services has offered creative writing groups in addition to existing educational groups through our incarcerated women's program. During the writing groups, participants read a variety of genres including poetry, short stories, and excerpts from novels, and write creative and autobiographical pieces. One poem they read, *The Truth About Us* by Terri Haven, a social worker who researches prisons, resonated with many of the participants. After reading the poem, the women wrote their own *The Truth About Me* pieces, and those poems are featured in our *More Than a Rap Sheet* exhibit, which was displayed at the 2014 "Marking Time: Prison Arts & Activism Conference" at Rutgers University. The project is a moving exhibit that consists of twenty-seven poems and twenty-one portraits (photographed by Christine Heinz of the SALT Institute of Portland, Maine) of incarcerated women in Maine. From the exhibit, we created a brief slide show that can be shown to classes and consciousness-raising groups to foster discussion amongst participants.

Family Crisis Services' Incarcerated Women's program is rooted in creating opportunities for women to use their voices in a system that so often makes them feel like they have none. This basic tenet manifests in every aspect of the program from how it started, to our use of group work, to our community training content. Using the keystone example of our exhibit *More Than a Rap Sheet: The Real Stories of Incarcerated Women*, when we present in the community, we discuss how over the years, FCS has not only created opportunities for women to speak out, but empowered women to use their voices for community and cultural change.

Family Crisis Services staff brings over a decade of experience of implementing trauma informed services within jails and prisons. Our workshops detail how our exhibit *More Than a Rap Sheet* was developed and how we use it as a training tool in the community; any participants have the opportunity to read about the inspiration that started the project as well as see the video presentation we have created from the exhibit. While *More Than a Rap Sheet* is our main example of how we create opportunities for women to use their voices, we also discuss other cultural campaigns that have been implemented using women's voices and how women's voices impact the construction and implementation of our own programs from evaluations to actual content of programs. Family Crisis Services presenters bring their expertise in delivering domestic violence services with incarcerated women to assist participants in gaining insights into how they can use women's voices to further their own programming and campaigns.

Find "*More Than a Rap Sheet*" on Twitter @TruthAboutUs\_ME

Family Crisis Services  
PO Box 704 Portland, Maine 04104  
(207) 767-4952  
[www.familycrisis.org](http://www.familycrisis.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FamilyCrisisServices](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyCrisisServices)

## THE TRUTH ABOUT ME

### By Sarah

The truth about me is I believe I am a good person, there is something magnificent in me that is craving to be harnessed. I have worth regardless of what has happened in my life.

The truth about me is I've come to this juncture in my life by circumstances which were seemingly out of my control, driven by drug addiction.

The truth about me is I am much more than a rap-sheet, I am a friend, I'm an enemy, I'm sadness, I'm happiness, I'm sometimes right, I'm sometimes wrong. I draw from these opposing elements, they flow through me like an uncooked stew mixing and stirring these paradoxes.

The truth about me is I'm a great mom, just because I have a record doesn't take away from the undying love I have for my two beautiful girls.

The truth about me is there is a fire burning within my soul, I have worth outside these prison walls, outside these labels society has imposed on me, branding me like livestock.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT ME IS...

### By Joleen

I've been molested, raped, beaten and starved  
I've been homeless, hungry and scared  
I've walked away from my kids  
I've been an addict for about 28 years  
I've been in an out of mental institutes and jail since the age of 15  
I've been dead 4 times  
I have a grandson  
I am deeply disturbed and hopelessly depressed  
I recently lost my mom  
I've attempted suicide  
I've lied, stolen, cheated and hurt

The truth about me is I am human and I have **many** regrets and mistakes have been made. I have failed at most everything, succeeded, then failed some more. Now at 32 I've begun to reclaim my life and take control over my destructive impulses. I don't want to leave my girls motherless by loosing myself to the slow suicide of drugs. I crave to become someone that people can learn from and possibly respect.

The truth about me is no one can dance my dance. No one can sing my song and no one but me can fill the pages in my book of life. These words represent the truth about me.

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Family Crisis Services' Incarcerated Women's Program  
Portland, Maine,  
[www.familycrisis.org](http://www.familycrisis.org).

I cry endlessly at night  
I hate my image in the mirror  
I've become angry  
I see black  
I am lost and scared  
The truth about me is I am a survivor

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Portland, Maine,  
[www.familycrisis.org](http://www.familycrisis.org).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT ME IS...

By Becky

The truth about me is...  
I am a good person;  
I care about others;  
I hope that no other woman ever feels the way I used to feel about myself;  
I am more than an embezzler;  
I am a good mother, although not always the best mother I can be;  
Sometimes I am too tired to go on.

The truth about me is...  
I believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit;  
I like being involved in my church and my community;  
I believe I have stuff to offer the world;  
I want to help other women and children;  
I love with my whole heart;  
Sometimes I love too much.

The truth about me is...  
I am not perfect, but I want to be;  
I value family, home and relationships;  
I have always been a good citizen and want to be again;  
I am a good neighbor;  
I love and appreciate my husband, although I don't always show it;  
Most of the time I believe your needs are way more important than my own.

The truth about me is...  
I carry guilt;  
I carry pride;  
I carry anger and hurt;  
I carry love;  
I carry devotion;  
Most of the time I will want to carry you.

The truth about me is...  
I am a wounded little girl;  
I am an adult child of alcoholic parents;  
I am a rape victim;  
I am a woman who does too much;  
I see myself as the champion of my kids;  
Sometimes no one sees me.

The truth about me is...  
I am a sister;  
I miss my brothers;  
I miss my parents;  
I often feel I have no family;  
I often feel I am a big disappointment;  
Always I want that to change.

The truth about me is...  
My yesterdays have passed;  
My tomorrows are on their way, but not here yet;  
My today is here and beautiful;  
I am ready to move on from here;  
Please, let me go.

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[Family Crisis Services' Incarcerated Women's Program](http://www.familycrisis.org)  
Portland, Maine,  
[www.familycrisis.org](http://www.familycrisis.org).

## Behind Bars in the Art Classroom

### RESTORATIVE ARTS AND AGING IN PRISON

Anne Katz, Ron Levine, and Aileen Hongo

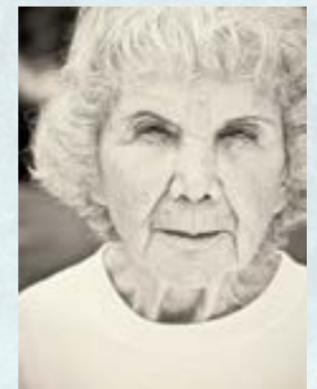
#### Introduction

The correctional environment is often opaque and difficult to understand outside of commercial reality shows. As part of the "Marking Time, Prison Arts and Activism Conference," this article will present a unique collaboration of creative art therapy and compelling imagery of aging inmates depicting the toll of decades of incarceration through photographs, artwork, and narratives.

Photographic imagery brings to life an aging population that is often forgotten and neglected. Art projects aim to provide inmates with coping skills to decrease depression, dissociation, and aggression and at the same time instill hope, self-esteem and ultimately better overall health. All projects involve individual creativity and lively interaction to promote social skills, confidence, and self-esteem. The overall goal is to decrease distress, improve the quality of life, and educate others about aging in prison utilizing restorative art.

In an environment beset with tension, stress, and volatility, prisoners develop intuitive mistrust and defenses as a means of survival. Oppression, dependency, and illiteracy are major obstacles to effective therapy in prison. There has been extensive use of art therapy for repressed populations such as victims of domestic violence and abused children in the outside world. However, little has been done to offer art therapy in the older prison population, a group prone to depression and despair. Yet this vulnerable population is the most costly in terms of chronic care.

The "Healing Squad," is a group of volunteer student interns led by Aileen Hongo (MSW/MSG) from the University of Southern California and supervised by Dr. Anne Katz from the USC School of Social Work. It provides multiple art workshops that create a safe, non-judgmental environment for older adult prisoners at the California Institution for Women, California Medical Facility, Central California Women's Facility, San Quentin State Prison, California Institution for Men and California Men's Colony. The Healing Squad goals are: to build interpersonal skills and develop trust; take responsibility for behavior; decrease isolation, stress, and depression; build social skills, self-esteem, and confidence; encourage prisoners to be role models for one another; develop peer leadership skills; decrease the need for medication; be more compliant in the general population and increase productivity in daily life activities. The Healing Squad provides a unique opportunity for personal growth among a group of peers. Peer support amongst older prisoners serves as a healing and coping tool in a difficult environment often not suited for the needs of the aging.



## ART AND THE AGING PRISONER

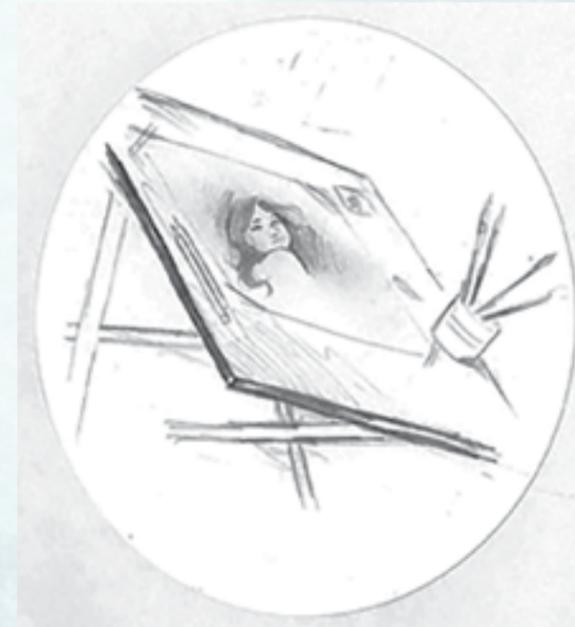


Aging issues, such as slowdown of mobility, poor vision, and loss of hearing acuity are just a few of the natural processes of aging that can handicap the daily activities of living for aging female prisoners. Isolation, loneliness, and despair can result in depression and exposure of these feelings can add to the risk of predation. Despite all intentions of the criminal justice system to conform prisoners to uniformity, they are still humans with a need for identity and self actualization. Recidivism rates show few prisoners overcome the many obstacles in their lives (Santos, 2007). Though technology continues to advance at lightning speed in the outside world, efforts to respond to the correctional system remain stagnant. Warehousing offenders and extinguishing hope while they wait for calendar pages to turn can only create more visits to the mental health unit.

The lack of support and rehabilitation renders the aging prisoner as the forgotten minority. Once in the penal system, the vulnerabilities of aging become exacerbated by inadequate facilities unable to meet the needs of an aging population. Studies have indicated that older adults benefit from wellness programs and health initiatives (Wahidin, 2004). Though isolation may be the initial punishment, chronic warehousing diminishes functionality, increased recidivism, and ultimately costs everyone regardless of the stakes. Programs, such as art therapy, can perhaps reduce the number of visits to the mental health unit and costly medication.

The Healing Squad's work corroborates the findings of Gussak, who delineates the benefits that art therapy may have in prison: a) art is helpful in the prison environment, given the disabilities extant in this population such as low educational levels, illiteracy, and

other obstacles to verbal communication and cognitive development; b) art allows the expression of complex materials in a simpler manner; c) art does not require that the prisoner know, admit, or discuss what they have disclosed in an environment that is dangerous, and any unintended disclosure can be threatening; d) art promotes disclosure, even while the inmate and/or client is not compelled to discuss feelings and ideas that might leave him vulnerable; e) art has the advantage of bypassing unconscious and conscious defenses, including pervasive dishonesty; f) art can diminish pathological symptoms without verbal interpretation; g) art supports creative activity in prison and provides necessary diversion and emotional escape; h) art permits the inmate and/or client to express himself in a manner acceptable to the inside and outside culture (Gussak, 2007).



## ART THERAPY INTERVENTIONS – A PILOT STUDY

As part of an internship program, a small six-session pilot project was conducted by Dr. Anne Katz and Aileen Hongo in the summer of 2012 with the Golden Girls, inmates aged 55+ at the California Institution for Women, on the value of art in the correctional setting. The pilot study used a quasi-experimental, single group pre- test/post- test design on two separate occasions. We hypothesized that if older female prison inmates received art therapy services, then they would exhibit marked change in their behavior and attitude, and an improvement in their mood within the correctional environment.

Group A consisted of 12 women over the age of 55 in a one-time art therapy project. Group B consisted of 11 women over the age of 55 participating in a six-session art therapy project. None of the women were suicidal and all functioned normally in terms of activities of daily living and cognitive skills. However, many were concerned that their feelings of depression and isolation escalated during down time. Almost unanimously, they did not want to go to the mental health unit for fear



that it would mark their record when called for parole hearings. The hope was that the art therapy sessions would provide a safe and harmonious environment to be creative and relieve stress even for a few hours. Each member was asked to complete a pre- and post- survey designed by the authors. The pre- test results of the surveys and assessments were compared to the post test results to ascertain change. A CES-D test for depression was given prior (pre- test) to the program and then after (post- test) to measure effectiveness of the art therapy program. A survey was also implemented at the last session.



## THE PROJECTS

*"Thank you for bringing some sunshine into our lives..."*

Both groups, A and B began with an introductory project; the six-session program is described below. Based on Dr. Gussak's work, we started with individual projects and progressed to a group project. Prisoner comments are provided at the end of each session description.

### INTRODUCTION PROJECT

Participants were given the opportunity to think about and then design on paper something connected to themselves to share with the group. This could be a favorite hobby, pet, experience, etc. Each participant stood up and told their story.

*"I learned so much about my friends here that I didn't even know and many of us have been together over twenty years!"*

*"This was scary but fun."*

### NAME EMBELLISHMENT

The second project provided a creative opportunity for prisoners to design a personal name embellishment. One of the most traumatic experiences of incarceration is the loss of identity. Identification numbers, often combined with unit numbers, are used in place of names. This particular art therapy exercise offered prisoners the opportunity to embrace their given name.

*"I hated my name until I came to prison..."*

*"I used my nickname today – something I haven't thought about in years and only my close friends and family know."*

*"Celebrate your name! (Not your number!)"*

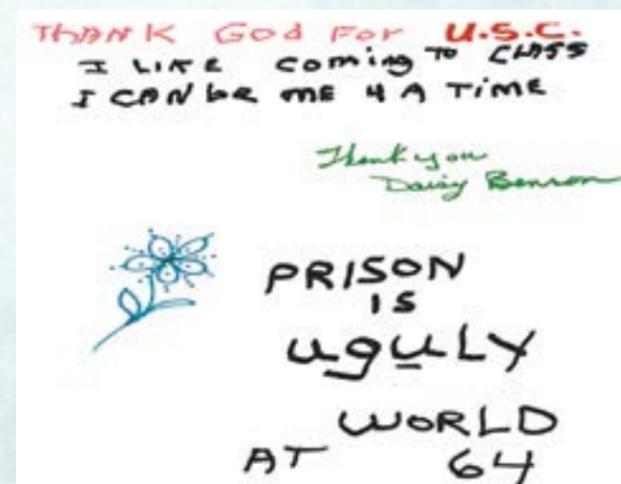


## THE LEFT HANDED DAY

This project involved the creation of art work with the non-dominant hand to utilize the 'unused' side of the brain and explore different feelings of comfort and creativity. Some prisoners kept a journal of left and right handed dialogue.

*"Wow, different things came out of my non-dominant hand – it was really cool and I could do it in the safety of my room."*

*"I thought it was crazy at first – my left hand 'talking' to my right? But it worked! It was weird but I was able to express a lot of feelings."*



## MY FIRST HOME

This project involved asking prisoners to draw their first home or school, providing an avenue of self-exploration and reflection into the past. Artwork ranged from a happy home with a big back yard to hillsides where one escaped the turmoil and violence at home.

*"Thank you for taking us back to a time of fond memories..."*

*"I didn't have a happy home but I used to escape to the hills behind my house – it gave me peace."*

*"Thanksgiving used to be my favorite holiday...now the Holidays are difficult and I'm always happy when January rolls around..."*



## MEMORY BOX

The idea of the memory box was to provide a safe place for keepsake items externally and internally. Privacy and ownership are minimal in an oppressive environment and the memory box can bring a sense of comfort to the inmate during difficult moments.

*"I'm going to keep it for myself as a safe place"*

*"I'm going to give it to my kids I want them to remember me"*

*"A special place for keepsakes and thoughts"*



## WHITE PAPER SCULPTURE

Prison is rigid, redundant and mundane. This project involved creating a white paper sculpture to provide a free, creative experience using only paper and glue. Prisoners had to tear and shape paper with their fingers.

*"It's amazing what we could do with just paper and glue – cool 3-dimensional stuff! And what's more amazing is that there is not one same theme from any of us!"*

*"I can do this in my cell – thank you!!"*

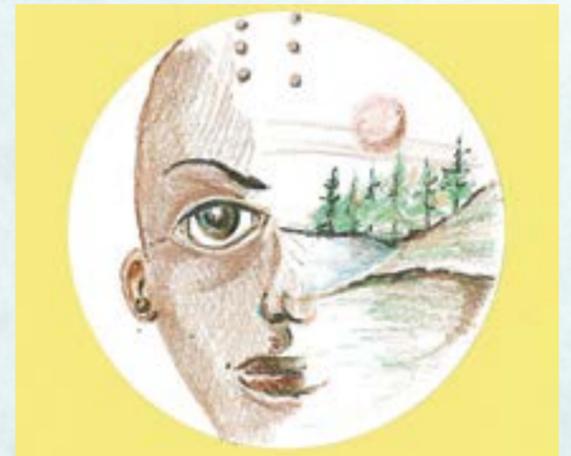
*"Please come back – I feel at peace today because of you!"*



## RESULTS

Quantitative results were not available due to inconsistent group attendance. However, surveys were positive with overwhelming requests to continue the program. Prisoners experienced an improvement in their mood and decreased depression. Qualitative results were therefore overwhelmingly positive.

More research is needed but art therapy clearly has an advantage in the often violent and tense environment of prison. Older adults are particularly vulnerable and art therapy may provide an effective means of bypassing unconscious and conscious defenses, promoting disclosure and diminishing symptoms without verbal interpretation (Gussak, 2007). It is inspirational to see that even after thirty to forty years of oppressive incarceration, the resiliency of the human spirit prevails through the creative power of art.



*"Thank you for bringing us something that will stay with us long after lockdown..."*

## REFERENCES

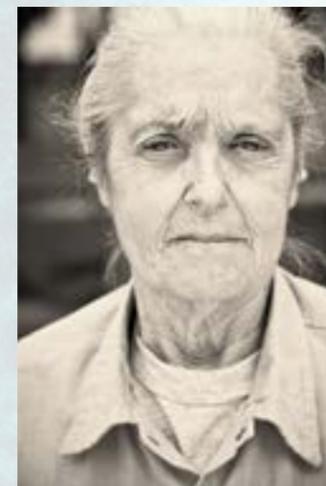
Gussak, D. 2007. "The Effectiveness of Art Therapy in Reducing Depression in Prison Populations." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 51 (4), 444-460.

Santos, Michael. 2007. *Inside: Life Behind Bars in America*. New York, NY: St. Martins Press.

Wahidin, Azrini. 2004. *Older Women in the Criminal Justice System: Running out of Time*. Philadelphia, PA: Kingsley Publishers.



*"This workshop is like a breath of fresh air in an otherwise stifling environment."*



*"Art helps me unwind and think beyond this life here..."*



*Thank you for the opportunity to escape my mind-chains of prison... God bless this program."*



*"I like coming to this class, I can be me 4 a time..."*

## WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES: A WORKSHOP AT MOUNTAINVIEW

J.D. McGuire

I have been teaching a college level Art Appreciation class at Mountainview Youth Correctional facility through the NJ STEP program. Given the limitations of a correctional institute I felt like we were missing the ability to learn from the power of making. Professor Nicole Fleetwood and Professor Sarah Tobias from the Institute for Research on Women generously reached out to me with the idea to do an art workshop in conjunction with their "Marking Time: Prison Art and Activism Conference." The workshop was held on March 11-13, 2015.

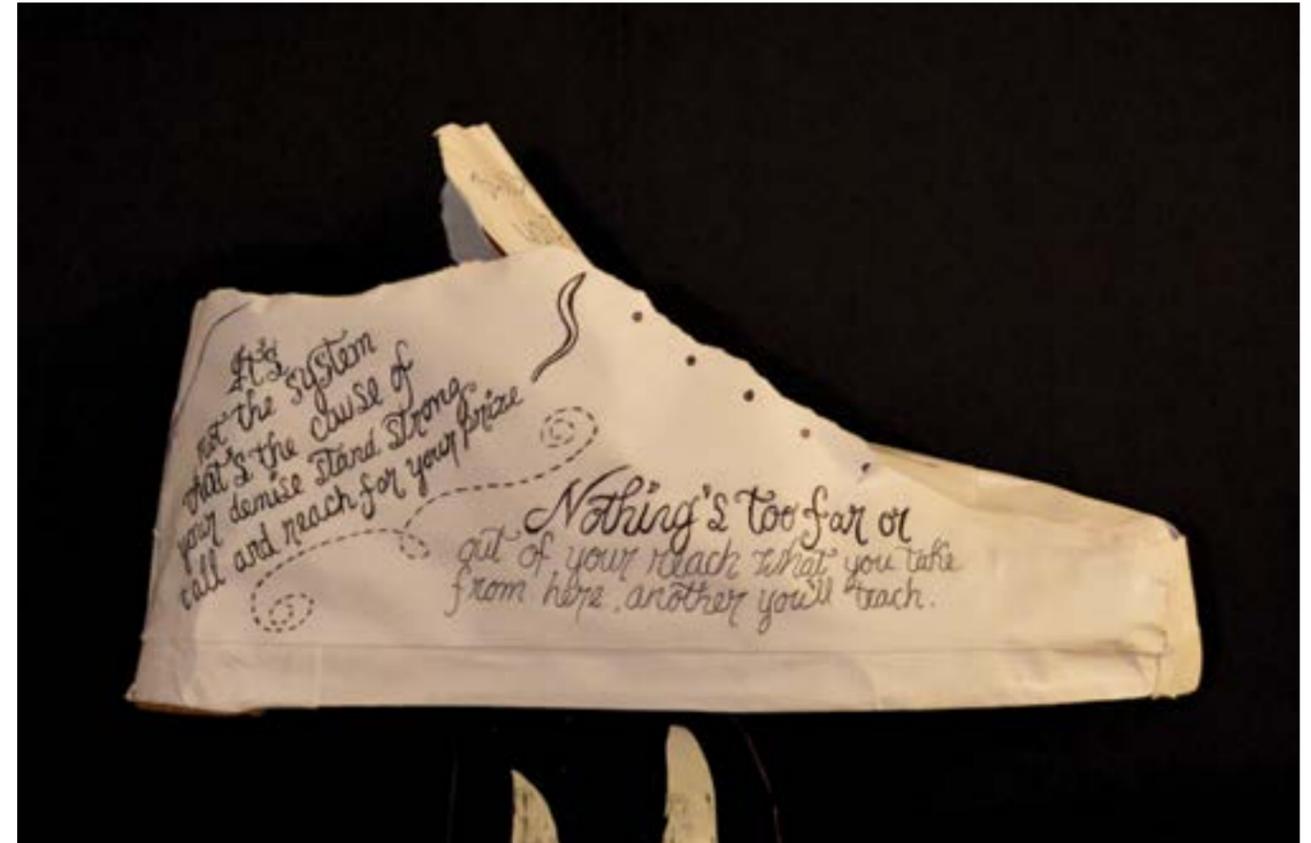
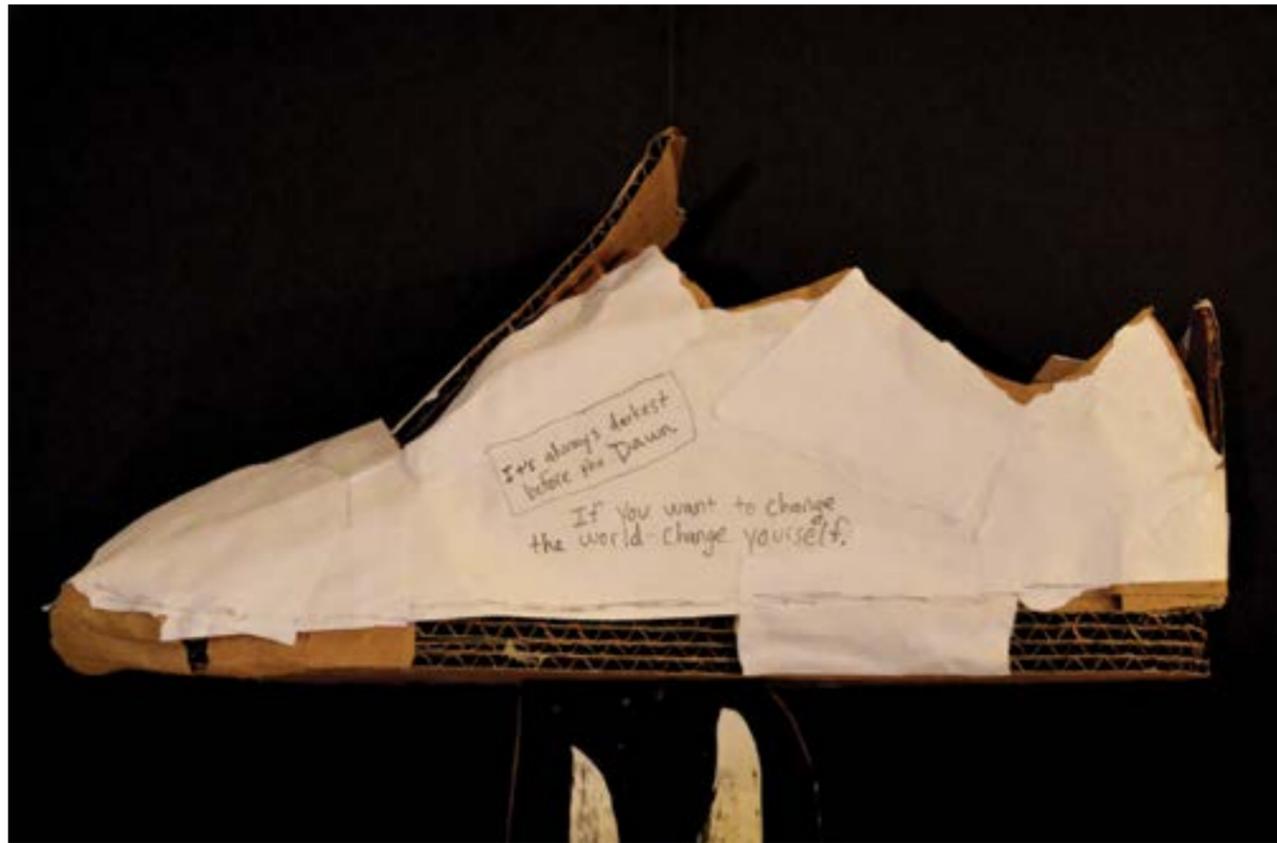
During three days at Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility, my Art Appreciation class of twenty eight students and I made state issued shoes and boots entirely out of cardboard. The concept behind this project was: "Walk a Mile in My Shoes," with the idea being to transform a throwaway material into a powerful learning tool for others.

The first day I introduced my guys to examples of other artworks made within correctional institutions. We traced the key components and parts of our shoes, the sole, the heel, etc. Because no scissors or cutting devices were allowed into the facility, I took home the tracings and gladly spent about 10 hours cutting out cardboard shoe parts.

At the beginning of class on day two my guys were panicking a bit and unsure if this project would work out. At this point we had the pieces to a puzzle and each individual had to resolve it in their own way. I spoke to all of them and reassured them that with faith and perseverance we would together transform this throwaway material into something amazing.

By day three it was obvious that we had shoes. We started collaging the surface and the shoes began to be real. I had my guys thinking about their own personal narrative and asked them to think about how they could incorporate parts of their story into the final design.

Before we left on the final day I told my guys how proud of them I was and that they had pulled off the impossible...*if you can make a shoe out of cardboard within the limitations of this place, then anything is possible....you see transformation.... you made it happen.*



## Notes on Contributors

**Aileen Hongo** is a geriatric social worker who has facilitated creative therapy and healthy aging workshops for older adults in California prisons since 2006. Creative arts provide a therapeutic means of coping with the despair, depression, and trauma of incarceration for the most vulnerable population behind bars.

**Anne D. Katz, Ph.D.**, is a Professor of Clinical Gerontology and the Co-Director of the Tingstad Older Adult Counseling Center (TOACC). She is also part of the USC Geriatric Assessment Program (GAP) interdisciplinary team that performs complete geriatric assessments for people 60+ at TOACC. Her research interests include: HIV/AIDS and older adults, women's issues and aging, women aging in prison, caregiver stress, and counseling older adults.

**Bonnie Kerness** earned a Masters in Social Work and has served as a human rights advocate on behalf of men, women, and children in US prisons since 1975, as Director of AFSC's Prison Watch Program. She has served as Associate Director and Acting Director of the AFSC Criminal Justice Program in Newark, the National Coordinator of the Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons and served on the board of directors of the World Organization for Human Rights, USA. Bonnie serves on the advisory board of California Prison Focus; Critical Resistance; Women Who Never Give Up, and Solitary Watch. She has helped publish, "Our Children's House," the pamphlet from which a play by the same name was written and has been performed. She has also helped publish "Torture in US Prisons—Evidence of US Human Rights Violations," "The Prison Inside the Prison: Control Units, Supermax Prisons and Devices of Torture," "The Survivor's Manual," and "Inalienable Rights: An AFSC Resource Guide." Ms. Kerness speaks widely at universities, community spaces, and religious institutions on behalf of people in prison about US human rights violations of the UN Convention Against Torture, and on the history and current state of mass imprisonment in the US. She has written and been quoted in articles, books, and other publications on prison related subjects.

**Phyllis Kornfeld** has been teaching creative art to incarcerated people for over thirty years. Her programs are ongoing and some participants have been in her art workshops continuously for as long as 10 years. At present, she conducts weekly workshops at two Connecticut men's prisons and one Massachusetts county jail. Kornfeld is the author of *Cellblock Visions: Prison Art in America*, (Princeton University Press), and a contributor to *Art Education Beyond the Classroom* (Palgrave MacMillan). She has published essays and articles, and lectures widely. Her "Cellblock Visions Permanent Collection" of drawings, paintings, and 3D objects created by her workshop participants tours university art galleries. She is the founder of several public projects whereby prison artists donate their artwork to benefit people in need. "The Envelope Project: Incarcerated Men and Women Making Art for a Cause" sold hundreds of original pieces of envelope art from six institutions at the Outsider Art Fair in NYC.

**Ron Levine** is a commercial and fine art photographer splitting his time between New York and Montreal. His documentary work has earned him international acclaim, resulting in solo exhibitions in Australia, Ireland and Mexico as well as the United States and Canada. His editorial work has been seen in *Travel & Leisure*, *The New York Times*, *ESPN Magazine* and *Forbes* and he has won awards from *Communication Arts*, *PDN*, *Applied Arts* and *How* magazines. He is the recipient of numerous grants and his work can be found in museums and private collections.

**Ojore Lutalo** is an artist who was released from Trenton State Penitentiary on 26 August, 2009 by way of a court order. He maxed out after 28 years, 22 of which were spent in the Management Control Unit (Solitary Confinement). Ojore began creating art both as a way to maintain his sanity and to more adequately convey to his friends the physical and emotional reality he experienced within solitary confinement. Since his release in 2008, Ojore dedicates himself to assisting the American Friends Service Committee in its attempt to expose the true nature and extent of long term isolation, its effect both on the prisoner individually as well as society at large.

**J.D. McGuire** is an artist with a BFA in Painting from Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA in Sculpture from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. His work has been displayed in galleries and exhibitions nationally. He has also worked as an art instructor at Rutgers, Centenary College, Raritan Valley Community College, and Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility.

**Dr. Eleanor Novek** is an Associate Professor of Communication whose research focuses on communication in prisons, nonviolence, qualitative research, service-learning, and outsider journalism. She teaches courses in civic journalism; ethics; gender, race, and media; peace communication; and research methods. She is state coordinator for Alternatives to Violence Project, a nonprofit that offers workshops on nonviolent conflict resolution.

**Sean Saifa Wall** is an intersex activist currently residing in Atlanta, GA. He is the creator of EMERGE, a concept design that documents and reaffirms Black life with visual artistry. Saifa has worked in HIV prevention for over ten years and is an integrated community organizer, somatic student practitioner, and researcher.

**Tracey Ziegler** began creating exhibitions of her art in maximum-security prisons after having spent 20 years of exhibiting in commercial galleries, seeking a different audience. She now conducts ongoing prison art workshops in various states. In addition, she has a network of 2300 prisoners throughout US with whom she develops through-the-mail-art projects.

## Resources



Avodah Dance conducting one of their creative movement workshops at a women's correctional facility

### PRISON ARTS ORGANIZATIONS MUSIC

#### Arts and Music Programs for Education in Detention Centers

<http://www.engage.northwestern.edu/AMPED/>

The Arts and Music Programs for Education in Detention Centers (AMPED) create an opportunity for students at Northwestern University to engage with the incarcerated population at Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center and provide mentorship through music.

Contact:  
Kerry Brown, AMPED Coordinator  
Email: [kerry-brown@northwestern.edu](mailto:kerry-brown@northwestern.edu)

#### Changing Tunes

<http://www.changingtunes.org.uk>

Changing Tunes, located in Bristol, England, provides education in various aspects of music production and performance designed to help rehabilitate incarcerated populations.

Contact:  
Changing Tunes  
PO Box 2646  
Bristol, BS6 9BU  
Phone: 0844 414 6083  
Email: [info@changingtunes.org.uk](mailto:info@changingtunes.org.uk)

#### Genuine Voices

<http://www.genuinevoices.com>

Genuine Voices strives to provide youth in secure facilities, as well as other institutional settings, with education in music, including composition.

Contact:  
P.O. Box 663 Needham Hts., MA 02494  
Phone: 617 448 7227  
Email: [genuinevoices@gmail.com](mailto:genuinevoices@gmail.com)

#### Good Vibrations Project – Imagination for People

<http://www.good-vibrations.org.uk/>

Good Vibrations, located in the UK, provides incarcerated populations with instruments in order to make music and develop skills during their time in prison.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <http://www.good-vibrations.org.uk/contact>

#### Heavenly Voices Choir

<http://www.behindthebars.org/the-heavenly-voices-choir.html>

The Heavenly Voices choir is a group that consists of incarcerated men at Howard R. Young Correctional Institution in Wilmington, Delaware. The choir members participate in four chapel services a week, and undergo ministry training.

Contact:  
PO Box 7633  
Newark, DE 19714-7633  
Phone: 302 998 5502  
Email: [kadtkeprod@verizon.net](mailto:kadtkeprod@verizon.net)  
Email: [prisonoutreachde@comcast.net](mailto:prisonoutreachde@comcast.net)

#### The Irene Taylor Trust – Music In Prisons Project

<http://irenetaylortrust.com>

The Music in Prisons Project is a five day project of music making that allows prisoners to form a group and record CDs of their own music, which are sent to their families.

Contact:  
Unit 401 Bon Marche Centre  
241-251 Ferndale Road  
London, SW9 8BJ  
Phone: 020 7733 3222  
Email: Sara Lee, Artistic Director – [sara@musicinprisons.org.uk](mailto:sara@musicinprisons.org.uk)

#### Jail Guitar Doors

<http://jailguitardoors.org/about.html>

Jail Guitar Doors provides outreach programs that involve music education for incarcerated populations.

Contact:  
Email: [contact@jailguitardoors.org](mailto:contact@jailguitardoors.org)

### PERFORMING ARTS

#### Actors' Gang – The Prison Project:

<http://www.theactorsgang.com/prisonproject>

The Prison Project, a project of the Actors' Gang, puts on three 8-week acting workshops a year inside the California prison system. The project aims toward rehabilitation for prisoners and a reduction of recidivism rates through self-expression.

Contact:  
The Ivy Substation  
9070 Venice Blvd.  
Culver City, CA  
Phone: 310 838 4264  
[prisonproject@theactorsgang.com](mailto:prisonproject@theactorsgang.com)

#### Prison Concerts Project – Bach With Verse

<http://www.bachwithverse.org/PrisonConcerts.html>

Bach With Verse seeks to bring performances by Richard "Dobbs" Hartshorne (his *One Man Show* combines Bach's *Solo Cello Suites* with comedic stories told by Hartshorne) to prisons, including New Hampshire State Prisons, Connecticut, and San Quentin State Prison in California.

Contact:  
Phone: 603 209 4133

Email: [bachwithverse@yahoo.com](mailto:bachwithverse@yahoo.com)

#### Send Musicians to Prison

<http://sendmusicianstoprison.com>

Send Musicians to Prison is based in Nashville, Tennessee. The program is comprised of singers, songwriters, and other musicians. The performers spend 2+ days a month in Nashville jails performing for people who are incarcerated, as well as 6 weeks a year in Los Angeles, and 6 weeks a year in New York City.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <http://sendmusicianstoprison.com/donate/>

#### And Still We Rise

<http://andstillwerise.org/about/mission-and-vision/>

And Still We Rise is an acting project focused on giving formerly incarcerated people and their loved ones a platform to express themselves and enact social change.

Contact:  
Dev Luthra  
Phone: 857 719 3884  
Email: [andstillwerise@gmail.com](mailto:andstillwerise@gmail.com)

#### Art from Ashes

<http://www.artfromashes.org>

Art from Ashes seeks to provide empowerment workshops to youth from marginalized communities. These creative workshops include the Casting Shadows program, which strives to achieve transformation for youth through theater.

Contact:  
853 Inca St, Suite 1A  
Denver, Colorado, 80204-4364  
Phone: 303 837 1550  
Email: [info@artfromashes.org](mailto:info@artfromashes.org)

### **Bar None Theater Company**

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/bar-none-theater-project#home>

Bar None Theater Company organizes theater workshops within and surrounding the criminal justice system as a way to facilitate social justice and change.

Contact:  
Julia Taylor  
Email: [juliagtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:juliagtaylor@gmail.com)  
Max Forman-Mullin  
Email: [maxformanmullin@gmail.com](mailto:maxformanmullin@gmail.com)

### **Drama Club NYC**

Drama Club NYC facilitates theater programming for incarcerated youth in New York City.

Contact:  
Email: [josie@dramaclubnyc.org](mailto:josie@dramaclubnyc.org)

### **Each One Reach One – Transforming Kids Behind Bars (The Playwriting Program)**

<http://www.eoro.org>

The Playwriting Program, a division of Each One Reach One, is an opportunity for incarcerated youth to write original two-character, one act plays.

Contact:  
146 South Spruce Ave.  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
Phone: 650 225 9030  
Email: [info@eoro.org](mailto:info@eoro.org)

### **Educational Shakespeare Company**

<http://esc-film.com>

The Educational Shakespeare Company utilizes drama and film in order to address issues facing marginalized people within society, including prisoners and ex-prisoners.

Contact:  
ESC (Educational Shakespeare Company)  
Managed Workspaces, First Floor  
109 – 113 Royal Avenue  
Belfast, BT 1 1FF  
Northern Ireland  
Phone: 028 9024 3338  
Email: [info@esc-film.com](mailto:info@esc-film.com)

### **Geese Theatre Company**

<http://www.geesetheatre.com>

Geese Theatre Company focuses on therapy through drama in prisons.

Contact:  
Artistic Director John Bergman at: [macflap@aol.com](mailto:macflap@aol.com) or [macflap@optusnet.com.au](mailto:macflap@optusnet.com.au)

### **Judy Dworin Performance Project**

<http://www.judydworin.org>

The Judy Dworin Performance Project raises awareness about social issues by putting on multi-arts performances in prison communities.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <http://www.judydworin.org/contact-2/>

### **Marin Shakespeare Company**

<http://www.marinshakespeare.org>

Marin Shakespeare Company provides opportunities for prisoners that include therapy through drama, as well as studying and performing Shakespeare.

Contact:  
890 Belle Ave  
San Rafael, CA, 94901  
Phone: 415 499 4488  
Email: [management@marinshakespeare.org](mailto:management@marinshakespeare.org)

### **Poetic Justice Project**

<http://www.poeticjusticeproject.org/index.html>

The Poetic Justice Project provides arts education for formerly incarcerated youth and adults by creating original theater productions centered on social justice.

Contact:  
PO Box 7196  
Santa Maria CA, 93456  
Phone: 805 264 5463  
Email: [staff@poeticjusticeproject.org](mailto:staff@poeticjusticeproject.org)

### **Preventing AIDS Through Life Movement and Sound**

<http://www.uchaps.org/homegrown4.shtml>

Preventing AIDS Through Life Movement and Sound (PALMS Project) uses theater-based multi-session programming in order to provide information about practicing and protecting sexual health in juvenile justice facilities, as well as other community settings.

Contact:  
Akil Pierre, MPH Project Director  
260 South Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-5085  
Phone: 215 731 2021  
Email: [akil@phmc.org](mailto:akil@phmc.org)

### **Prison Performing Arts**

<http://prisonartsstl.org>

Prison Performing Arts provides performing arts workshops and classes to prisoners through their youth and adult programs.

Contact:  
3547 Olive St.  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
Phone: 314 289 4190  
Email: [shelby@prisonartsstl.org](mailto:shelby@prisonartsstl.org)

### **Reforming Arts Incorporated, Georgia**

<http://www.reformingarts.org>

The Theatre Reentry Project, one of the Reforming Arts' projects, provides an opportunity for women in Georgia's criminal justice system to create original plays as a way to work through and explore issues surrounding reentry after incarceration.

Contact:  
1570 Monroe Dr.  
Suite 414  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
Phone: 678 689 8263  
Email: [wendeballew@reformingarts.org](mailto:wendeballew@reformingarts.org)

### **Shakespeare Behind Bars**

<http://www.shakespearebehindbars.org/links/papadult/>

Shakespeare Behind Bars provides theatrical programming to incarcerated, as well as formerly incarcerated, adults and juveniles as a way to provide an opportunity for successful reentry post-incarceration.

Contact:  
PO Box 33293  
Louisville, KY 40232-3293  
Email: [info@shakespearebehindbars.org](mailto:info@shakespearebehindbars.org)

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **Alliance for California Traditional Arts**

<http://www.actaonline.org/content/mission>

The Alliance for California Traditional Arts seeks to provide rehabilitation through the arts at Kern Valley State Prison and California State Prison – Corcoran, focusing on folk and traditional art including Ohlone basketry and African-American quilt-making.

Contact:  
1245 Van Ness Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Phone: 559 237 9812  
Email (online form): <http://www.actaonline.org/contact>

### **Anathema Art – Prison Art across the U.S.**

<http://www.anathemaart.com>

Anathema Art allows incarcerated artists to explore art as a means of self-expression and personal growth.

### **Artistic Noise**

<http://www.artisticnoise.org/about.php#program>

Artistic Noise provides studio arts workshops in which youth in detention facilities are given the opportunity for self-expression and storytelling through art.

Contact:  
Email: [lauren.adelman@artisticnoise.org](mailto:lauren.adelman@artisticnoise.org)

### **Storycatchers Theatre**

<http://www.storycatchertheatre.org/who-we-are/>

Storycatchers Theatre provides youth who are incarcerated within the juvenile justice system with opportunities to share their stories. Through multi-week programs, StoryCatcher facilitates story-writing assignments, leadership development exercises, reflections, readings, critiques, planning sessions, and rehearsals.

Contact:  
Address: 544 W. Oak Street, #1005  
Chicago, IL 60610  
Phone: 312 280 4772  
Email: [info@storycatchertheatre.org](mailto:info@storycatchertheatre.org)

### **Theater of Hope**

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/pubaf/news/2011/mciframingham03142011.html>

This Boston College project strives to bring theatrical arts to incarcerated women. The program is facilitated at MCI-Framingham and South Middlesex Correctional Center.

Contact:  
Email: [tiala@bc.edu](mailto:tiala@bc.edu)

### **Brush With The Law – Maria Maneos, Visual Artist**

<http://mariamaneos.com/brush-with-the-law-prison-art/>

Brush With the Law is a program designed to promote self-expression through art programming at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Eagleville, Pennsylvania.

Contact:  
Phone: 215 872 5771  
Email: [maneosmaria@gmail.com](mailto:maneosmaria@gmail.com)

### **Cellblock Visions**

<http://www.cellblockvisions.com/index.html>

*Cellblock Visions* compiles artwork from a wide range of prisoners, from those in county jails to people on Death Row.

Contact:  
Email: [phylkorn@bcn.net](mailto:phylkorn@bcn.net)

### **City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program**

<http://www.muralarts.org>

The Mural Arts Program strives for transformation of places, individuals, communities and institutions, and dialogue about important social issues through art.

Contact:  
Mural Arts Center  
Thomas Eakins House  
1727-29 Mt. Vernon Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130  
Phone: 215 685 0750  
Email: [info@muralarts.org](mailto:info@muralarts.org)

### **Eastern State Penitentiary**

[http://www.easternstate.org/sites/default/files/ESP\\_Guidelines\\_Art\\_2016.pdf](http://www.easternstate.org/sites/default/files/ESP_Guidelines_Art_2016.pdf)

Artists can install art in Eastern Penitentiary's cellblocks in order to create a bridge between the history of the Penitentiary and the way the criminal justice system operates today.

Contact:  
Sean Kelley  
Senior Vice President, Director of Public Programming  
Phone: 215 236 5111  
Email: [sk@easternstate.org](mailto:sk@easternstate.org)

### **Emanuel Project**

<http://emanuelproject.org/programs/>

The Emanuel Project brings a curriculum based on art, art therapy, and a mural program to juvenile detention facilities across the country.

Contact:  
5910 S. University Blvd.  
Ste. C18#371  
Greenwood Village, CO 80121  
Phone: 720 539 4593  
Email: [info@emanuelproject.org](mailto:info@emanuelproject.org)

### **Lorton Art Program**

[http://www.lortonartprogram.org/LortonArtProgram/About\\_Lorton\\_Art\\_Program.html](http://www.lortonartprogram.org/LortonArtProgram/About_Lorton_Art_Program.html)

Lorton Art Program provides education in the fine arts to incarcerated populations at DC Department of Corrections facilities in Lorton, Virginia, and the DC Detention Facility.

Contact:  
PO Box 40217  
Washington, DC 20016  
Email: [lortonart@verizon.net](mailto:lortonart@verizon.net)

### **MadeCorrections**

<http://www.madecorrections.com>

Made Corrections provides opportunities for incarcerated young people to engage with and become inspired by art as a form of rehabilitation.

Contact:  
Dean Stalham: [montyboyone2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:montyboyone2@yahoo.co.uk)  
David Ellis: [makeshift44@googlemail.com](mailto:makeshift44@googlemail.com)  
Olly Walker: [olly@ollystudio.co.uk](mailto:olly@ollystudio.co.uk)

### **Montana Women's Prison Project**

<http://www.chipclawson.com/id24.html>

The "All Women Are Role Models Arch," which is located at the main entrance to the Montana Women's Prison, is a public art project by women incarcerated at the facility.

Contact:  
Email: [chipclawson@msn.com](mailto:chipclawson@msn.com)

### **An Open Window Project**

<http://anopenwindowproject.org/mission.html>

An Open Window, affiliated with Cornell University, exhibits art in prisons and provides arts workshops to incarcerated populations.

Contact:  
Treacy Ziegler, Executive Director  
Center for Transformative Action  
Anabel Taylor Hall  
Ithaca, New York, 14853  
mail: [treacyziegler@yahoo.com](mailto:treacyziegler@yahoo.com)

### **Oregon Prison Art**

<http://oregonprisonart.org>

Oregon Prison Art is a website that seeks to exhibit art currently being made in Oregon State Prisons.

Contact:  
Email: [curator@oregonprisonart.org](mailto:curator@oregonprisonart.org)

### **Prison Art Program – Kathleen McHugh**

[http://mchughart.net/prison\\_art\\_program](http://mchughart.net/prison_art_program)

Kathleen McHugh and The Creative Expressions Project seek to give incarcerated populations the opportunity to conduct art projects as a way to make connections to the outside world.

Contact:  
Email: [mchughart@gmail.com](mailto:mchughart@gmail.com)

### **Prison Art Show – Pier 5 Law Offices / Liberation Prison Project**

<http://pier5lawprisonartshow.weebly.com>

Every autumn, Pier 5 Law and the Liberation Prison Project collect and display hundreds of pieces of artwork created by incarcerated men and women throughout the United States.

Contact:  
506 Broadway St.  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
Phone: 415 986 5591

### **Prison Arts Program – Community Partners In Action**

<http://www.cpa-ct.org/prisonarts/>

The Prison Arts Program brings visual arts classes, exhibitions, and publications to Connecticut prisons.

Contact:  
Jeff Greene  
Phone: 860 722 9450  
Email: [cpaprisonarts@gmail.com](mailto:cpaprisonarts@gmail.com)

### **Prison Photography**

<http://prisonphotography.org>

Prison Photography provides an online platform for photography produced within prison walls to be shared.

Contact:  
Email: [prisonphotography@gmail.com](mailto:prisonphotography@gmail.com)

### **Prisoners of Age**

<http://www.prisonersofage.com>

*Prisoners of Age* is a series of photographs and interviews with elderly inmates and corrections personnel conducted in prisons both in the United States and Canada since 1996.

Contact:  
Ron Levine, Photographer  
Email: [ron@ronlevinephotography.com](mailto:ron@ronlevinephotography.com)

### **Project PAINT**

<https://ucdsoc.wordpress.com/2014/05/01/laura-pecenco-launches-project-paint/>

Project PAINT is a volunteer-run visual arts program for prisoners at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in California.

Contact:  
Email: [prisonartsinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:prisonartsinitiative@gmail.com)

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## **WRITING, LITERATURE, AND POETRY PROGRAMS**

### **American Prison Writing Archive**

<http://apw.dhinitiative.org>

The American Prison Writing Archive is an online resource for incarcerated populations to contribute their writings and bear witness to the effects of mass incarceration.

Contact:  
Doran Larson, Ph.D.  
Email: [dlarson@hamilton.edu](mailto:dlarson@hamilton.edu)

### **Changing Lives Through Literature**

<http://ctl.umassd.edu/home-flash.cfm>

Changing Lives Through Literature consists of a reading group that is supervised and attended by an instructor, probation officer, judge, and students, in order to expose incarcerated populations to the transformative power of literature.

Contact:  
285 Old Westport Rd.  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747  
Phone: 508 999 8752  
Email: [ctl@umassd.edu](mailto:ctl@umassd.edu)

### **Free Write Jail Arts**

<http://www.freewritejailarts.org/about-us/>

Free Write Jail Arts & Literacy Program is a program for incarcerated youth who are currently detained in the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center. The program seeks to promote print, cultural, media, and technology literacy.

Contact:  
1100 South Hamilton Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60612  
Email: [info@freewritejailarts.org](mailto:info@freewritejailarts.org)

### **Windows from Prison**

<http://www.windowsfromprison.com>

Windows from Prison is a program that strives for social change through the power of photography in order to engage students, faculty, NGOs, family members of incarcerated individuals, former prisoners, and policy makers in issues surrounding mass incarceration.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <http://www.windowsfromprison.com/contact.html>

### **Herstory Inside Program – Herstory Writers Workshop**

[http://www.herstorywriters.org/in\\_the\\_justice\\_arena.html](http://www.herstorywriters.org/in_the_justice_arena.html)

Herstory Writers Workshop is a program in which incarcerated women and girls create literary publications to share their stories.

Contact:  
2539 Middle Country Road FL. 2  
Centereach, NY 11720  
Phone: 631 676 7395  
Email: [contactus@herstorywriters.org](mailto:contactus@herstorywriters.org)

### **Host Point Writing**

<http://www.hoistpointwriting.org>

Host Point Writing is a program that brings creative writing workshops to Denver Women's Correctional Facilities.

Contact:  
Kathy Goodkin  
Email: [kathy@hoistpointwriting.org](mailto:kathy@hoistpointwriting.org)

### **InsideOut Writers**

<http://www.insideoutwriters.org/mission/>

InsideOut Writers strives to reduce recidivism rates in the juvenile justice system through providing creative writing opportunities.

Contact:  
1212 N. Vermont Avenue  
2nd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
Phone: 323 660 1866  
Email: [info@insideoutwriters.org](mailto:info@insideoutwriters.org)

### **Justice Denied – The Magazine for the Wrongfully Convicted**

<http://www.justicedenied.org>

Justice: Denied is a magazine focused on publicizing and sharing stories of wrongful convictions.

Contact:  
PO Box 66291  
Seattle, WA 98166  
Phone: 206 335 4254  
Email: [contact@justicedenied.org](mailto:contact@justicedenied.org)

### **Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop**

<http://www.mnprisonwriting.org>

The Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop operates in Minnesota's state prisons and provides opportunities for fiction writing, essay writing, poetry, spoken word, oral story-telling, children's literature, fantasy writing, and more.

Contact:  
Email: [info@mnprisonwriting.org](mailto:info@mnprisonwriting.org)

### **PEN American Center**

<http://www.pen.org/prison-writing>

The PEN Prison Writing Program connects writing teachers with prisoners throughout the country in order to promote self-expression and empowerment through the written word.

Contact:  
588 Broadway, Suite 303  
New York, NY 10012  
Phone: 212 334 1660  
Email: [pen@pen.org](mailto:pen@pen.org)

### **Pongo Teen Writing**

<http://www.pongoteenwriting.org/who-we-are.html?>

The Pongo Publishing Teen Writing Project provides opportunities for young Seattle teens who are incarcerated or on the streets to create art through poetry and other forms of writing.

Contact:  
2701 California Ave SW PMB 155  
Seattle, WA 98116  
Phone: 206 852 9166  
Email: [info@pongoteenwriting.org](mailto:info@pongoteenwriting.org)

### **Prison Book Program**

<http://www.prisonbookprogram.org/about-us/mission-values/>

Prison Book Program provides books to incarcerated populations in order to support education, vocational, and personal development.

Contact:  
1306 Hancock Street, Suite 100  
Quincy, MA 02169  
Phone: 617 423 3298  
Email: [info@prisonbookprogram.org](mailto:info@prisonbookprogram.org)

### **Prison English Project**

<http://english.clas.asu.edu/files/prisonprogrambrochure12finalforweb.pdf>

The Prison English Project brings university-level English courses from Arizona State University to the New Mexico State Penitentiary.

Contact:  
Prof. Joe Lockard  
PO Box 870302  
Tempe, AZ 85287-0302  
Email: [joe.lockard@asu.edu](mailto:joe.lockard@asu.edu)

### **Prison Poetry Project**

<http://prisonpoetryworkshop.org>

A radio program that sets out to explore the power of prison poetry by broadcasting incarcerated populations' poetry.

Contact:  
Nick Szuberla: 606 454 8864  
Email: [nickszub@gmail.com](mailto:nickszub@gmail.com)

### **Prison Writers Speak Out**

<http://www.prisonwriters.com>

Prison Writers Speak Out is an online collection of stories by incarcerated people about life behind bars.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <http://www.prisonwriters.com/contact/>

### **Prisoners Poetry – Willamette University**

[http://www.willamette.edu/people/archives/2013/01/prison\\_poetry.html](http://www.willamette.edu/people/archives/2013/01/prison_poetry.html)

Rey Goicochea and Rei Ayala teach poetry at Oregon State Penitentiary and share their work with the public.

Contact:  
Rey Goicochea  
Email: [rgoicoch@willamette.edu](mailto:rgoicoch@willamette.edu)  
Rei Ayala  
mail: [rayala@willamette.edu](mailto:rayala@willamette.edu)

### **Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund**

[http://williamjamesassociation.org/prison\\_arts/](http://williamjamesassociation.org/prison_arts/)

Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund is an educational literature fund that fills requests from 800 prisoners across the country. It provides an opportunity for prisoners to engage with world events and key political, cultural, and philosophical questions.

Contact:  
1321 N Milwaukee, #407  
Chicago, IL 60622  
Phone: 773 960 6952  
Email: [contact@prlf.org](mailto:contact@prlf.org)

### **Prisons Foundation**

<http://prisonsfoundation.org>

Prisons Foundation publishes free downloads of books and guides that are produced by or about incarcerated populations.

Contact:  
2512 Virginia Ave. NW, #58043  
Washington, DC 20037

### **SwallowTale Project**

<https://swallowtaleproject.wordpress.com/2014/03/26/introducing-the-swallowtale-project/>

The SwallowTale Project is an effort to share the stories and poems of incarcerated women.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <https://swallowtaleproject.wordpress.com/contact-us/>

### **Tenacious: a Zine of Art & Writings by Women in Prison**

<http://resistancebehindbars.org/node/19>

*Tenacious* is a zine that compiles articles, essays, poetry, and art by women who are currently or formerly incarcerated.

Contact:  
Vikki Law  
PO Box 20388  
New York, NY 10009

Affiliated with Books Through Bars – NYC

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## MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS AND PRISON EDUCATION PROJECTS

### **Art Therapy in Prison**

<http://arttherapyinprison.com>

Art Therapy in Prison is a web resource that compiles research on art, art therapy, and incarcerated populations. It is facilitated by staff at Florida State University.

Contact:  
Email (online form): [http://arttherapyinprison.com/?page\\_id=359](http://arttherapyinprison.com/?page_id=359)

### **Arts and Restorative Justice Program – San Francisco Youth Guidance Center (Community Works)**

<http://communityworkswest.org/index.php/rgc/17>

The Arts and Restorative Justice Program provides opportunities for youth at San Francisco's Youth Guidance Center to express themselves through Hip Hop, creative writing, and theater.

Contact:  
4681 Telegraph Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94609  
Phone: 510 486 2340  
Email: [info@communityworkswest.org](mailto:info@communityworkswest.org)

### **Write to Release**

<http://writetorelease.org/about-2/>

Write to Release brings creative writing workshops to jails and prisons, and publishes the *Write to Release Review*.

Contact:  
Email: [info@writetorelease.org](mailto:info@writetorelease.org)

### **WritersCorps – Juvenile Hall Program**

<http://www.sfartscommission.org/WC/programs/juvenile-hall/>

WritersCorps brings writing workshops to the Juvenile Justice Center in San Francisco. They also produce a journal that is specifically for incarcerated youth called *Words Within the Walls*.

Contact:  
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 345  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 415 252 2546  
Email: [hello@writerscorps.org](mailto:hello@writerscorps.org)

### **Writers in Prison Project – UW Madison**

<http://creativewriting.wisc.edu/friends.html>

The Writers in Prisons Project consists of educators, writers, performers, scholars and community members throughout Wisconsin who work to promote self-expression and literary engagements in prisons.

Contact:  
Sean Bishop, Graduate Coordinator  
600 N. Park St, H.C. White Rm 6195  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI 53706  
Email: [mfamail@english.wisc.edu](mailto:mfamail@english.wisc.edu)

### **Arts-In-Corrections**

<http://www.cac.ca.gov/initiatives/aic.php>

Arts-In-Corrections comprises of a wide range of arts programs for incarcerated populations to facilitate rehabilitation and adjustment to life after release from prison.

### **Arts in Prison, Inc. – East Hill Singers**

<http://www.artsinprison.org/about/index.html>

Arts in Prison utilize a variety of programs in order to bring art into prisons, including music, poetry, visual art, and writing. One of these programs, the East Hill Singers, is a chorus group located at Lansing Correctional Facility in Lansing, Kansas. This program includes four performances outside of the prison each year.

Contact:  
P.O. Box 23502  
Overland Park, Kansas 66283  
Phone: 913 403 0229  
Email: [info@artsinprison.org](mailto:info@artsinprison.org)

### **ArtSpring**

<http://artspring.org/about/>

ArtSpring provides various arts programs to the Florida Department of Corrections including the Inside Out Program, which consists of interdisciplinary arts programming and theater workshops.

Contact:  
PO Box 343432  
Florida City, FL 33034  
Phone: 305 278 1601  
Email: [artspring@artspring.org](mailto:artspring@artspring.org)

### **Avodah Dance**

<http://avodahdance.org>

Avodah Dance conducts dance, music, and art residencies and workshops that strive to raise awareness about issues surrounding incarceration, including work with incarcerated women through public performances.

Contact:  
Avodah Dance c/o Hebrew Union College  
One West 4th Street  
New York, NY 10012  
Email: [avodahdance@gmail.com](mailto:avodahdance@gmail.com)

### **Bard Prison Initiative**

<http://bpi.bard.edu/what-we-do/>

The Bard Prison Initiative allows incarcerated women and men to pursue a Bard College degree while in prison.

Contact:  
PO Box 5000  
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504-5000  
Phone: 845 758 7308  
Email: [bpi@bard.edu](mailto:bpi@bard.edu)

### **The Beat Within**

<http://www.thebeatwithin.org>

The Beat Within provides incarcerated youth with a safe space to explore and share their experiences through literacy, self-expression, and critical thinking skills.

Contact:  
David Inocencio  
P.O. Box 34310  
San Francisco, CA 94134  
Phone: 415 890 5641  
Email: [dinocencio@thebeatwithin.org](mailto:dinocencio@thebeatwithin.org)

### **Bedford Hills College Program – Marymount Manhattan College**

<http://www.mmm.edu/academics/bedford-hills-college-program.php>

The Bedford Hills College Program, facilitated through Marymount Manhattan College, provides prisoners with opportunities to pursue an Associates of Arts degree in Social Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. The program also includes college prep courses in writing and math.

Contact:  
Cathy Jenkins  
Phone: 212 517 0469  
Email: [cjenkins@mmm.edu](mailto:cjenkins@mmm.edu)

### **Behind These Prison Walls**

<http://behindtheseprisonwalls.webs.com>

Behind These Prison Walls is an arts program directed toward at-risk youth with the purpose of steering them away from the criminal justice system.

Contact:  
Email: [Lorenzosteele2@yahoo.com](mailto:Lorenzosteele2@yahoo.com)

### **Between the Bars: Blogs from Writers in Prisons**

<https://betweenthebars.org/blogs/>

Between the Bars provides an opportunity for incarcerated populations to share their stories online via scanned letters.

Contact:  
Email: [info@betweenthebars.org](mailto:info@betweenthebars.org)

### **Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center Arts Project**

<http://ccjdcartsproject.weebly.com/about.html>

The CCJDC Arts Project involves educating students at the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center through music, visual arts, and drama.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <http://ccjdcartsproject.weebly.com/contact-us.html>

### **Children’s Prison Art Project**

<http://www.childrensprisonart.org>

Children’s Prison Arts Project strives to educate juvenile offenders through theater and visual arts.

Contact:  
P.O. Box 130584  
Houston, TX 77219-0584  
Phone: 713 520 7661  
Email: [childrensprisonart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:childrensprisonart@sbcglobal.net)

### **Community Works**

<http://communityworkswest.org/index.php/about-us>

Community Works facilitates public exhibits, performances, and activism about the impact of incarceration.

Contact:  
4681 Telegraph Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94609  
Phone: 510 486 2340  
Email: [info@communityworkswest.org](mailto:info@communityworkswest.org)

### **Family Crisis Services Incarcerated Women’s Program**

<http://familycrisis.org/incarcerated-womens-program/>

Offers support groups and creative writing groups for incarcerated women. Developed the art and poetry exhibit “More than a Rap Sheet.”

Contact:  
Email (online form): <http://familycrisis.org/contact-us/>

### **Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop**

<http://freemindsbookclub.org/about-us>

Free Minds utilizes creative expression, job readiness training, and prevention outreach in order to provide an opportunity for DC youth incarcerated as adults to achieve their full potential.

Contact:  
2201 P Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
Phone: 202 758 0829  
Email: [mail@freemindsbookclub.org](mailto:mail@freemindsbookclub.org)

### **Gateways for Incarcerated Youth**

<http://gateways.evergreen.edu>

Gateways for Incarcerated Youth brings academic and creative arts programs, including college preparation, to incarcerated youth. It is a public service program of Evergreen State.

Contact:  
Phone: 360 867 6025

### **Goucher Prison Education Partnership**

<http://www.goucher.edu/academics/other-academic-offerings/goucher-prison-education-partnership>

The Goucher Prison Education Partnership (GPEP), a division of Goucher College, provides incarcerated populations in Maryland with the opportunity to receive a college education.

Contact:  
Director: Amy Roza  
Phone: 410 337 6033  
Email: [amy.roza@goucher.edu](mailto:amy.roza@goucher.edu)

### **Incarcerated Voices**

<https://www.incarceratedvoices.com>

Incarcerated Voices involves a variety of programming, including a radio broadcast to broaden public understanding of incarceration.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <https://www.incarceratedvoices.com/contact>

### **Inside Dharma**

<http://www.insidedharma.net>

Inside Dharma is an organization that seeks to provide support for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals through Buddhist teachings and principles.

Contact:  
6419 Clemens Ave.  
University City, MO 63130  
Phone: 314 254 3243  
Email: [insidedharma@gmail.com](mailto:insidedharma@gmail.com)

### **Inside-Out Oregon**

<http://insideoutoregon.com/about/>

Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program creates a link between institutions of higher education and correctional facilities. The program includes a semester or quarter long academic course where undergraduate students from “outside” attend classes with incarcerated students.

Contact:  
Melissa Crabbe  
Assistant [Inter]national Director, Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program  
Email: [melissa.crabbe@insideoutcenter.org](mailto:melissa.crabbe@insideoutcenter.org)

### **Insight-Out Program**

<http://insight-out.org>

Insight-Out works with GRIP (Guiding Rage into Power) Prison Program at San Quentin State Prison to create a process that transforms violent offenders into peacekeepers.

Contact:  
Jacques Verduin  
Phone: 415 488 1348  
Email: [jverduin@comcast.net](mailto:jverduin@comcast.net)

### **Insight Prison Project**

<http://www.insightprisonproject.org>

Insight Prison Project is a program operating in San Quentin State Prison that provides rehabilitation to incarcerated populations.

Contact:  
PO Box 151642  
San Rafael, CA 94915  
Phone: 415 459 9800  
Email: [info@insightprisonproject.org](mailto:info@insightprisonproject.org)

### **It's Not Just Black and White**

<http://itsnotjustblackandwhite.info/pages/about.php>

It's Not Just Black and White is an exhibition and set of workshops for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals and their families.

Contact:  
10th Street and Mill Avenue  
Tempe, AZ 85281

### **JudithClark.org**

<http://judithclark.org>

JudithClark.org is a site that provides the history of the activist and poet Judy Clark who is currently incarcerated.

Contact:  
PO Box 544  
Radio City Station  
New York, NY 10101-0544

Or:  
Sara Bennett, Judy's attorney  
Email: [sbennett@judithclark.org](mailto:sbennett@judithclark.org)

### **Keeping the Faith – The Prison Project**

<http://www.patgraney.org/education/keeping-the-faith>

Keeping the Faith – The Prison Project, is a program that gives incarcerated women a platform for self-expression through performance, video documentation, and writing.

Contact:  
PO Box 22868  
Seattle WA 98122-0868  
Phone: 206 329 3705  
Email: [staff@patgraney.org](mailto:staff@patgraney.org)

### **Liberal Arts in Prison Program – Grinnell College**

<http://www.grinnell.edu/academics/centers/liberal-arts-prison>

Liberal Arts in Prison is a program that is equivalent to one year at Grinnell College. The program is enhanced by a student volunteer program.

Contact:  
1115 Eighth Ave.  
Grinnell, IA 50112  
Phone: 641 269 4944  
Email: [grinnellinprison@grinnell.edu](mailto:grinnellinprison@grinnell.edu)

### **The Messages Project**

<http://themessagesproject.org/our-mission>

The Messages Project fosters the opportunity to build bonds between children and their incarcerated parents through video messages and other interactions such as poems, songs, and prayers.

Contact:  
PO Box #8325  
Norfolk, VA 23503  
Website Contact Form: <http://themessagesproject.org/contact-us>

### **Michigan Women's Justice & Clemency Project**

<http://umich.edu/~clemency/>

Michigan Women's Justice & Clemency Project works to free women prisoners who were convicted of murder but who acted in self-defense against abusers and did not receive due process or fair trials; and to conduct public education and advocacy for justice, human rights, and humane alternatives to incarceration for women.

Contact:  
Professor Carol Jacobsen  
1019 Maiden Lane  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Phone: 734 662 0776  
Email: [jacobsen@umich.edu](mailto:jacobsen@umich.edu)

### **Mountainview Program**

<http://njstep.newark.rutgers.edu/about/mountainview-program/>

Founded by Rutgers History Professor Donald Roden, the Mountainview Program provides incarcerated students with an opportunity to pursue a four year degree at Rutgers University after release, with academic, social, and professional support.

Contact:  
Chris Agans  
Email: [chris.agans@rutgers.edu](mailto:chris.agans@rutgers.edu)

### **Mountainview Project**

<https://sites.google.com/site/mvprutgers/home>

Mountainview Project Student Organization at Rutgers University is a student organization located on the New Brunswick Campus that provides the opportunity for incarcerated populations and at-risk youth to gain mentoring, tutoring, attend seminars, and promote the possibilities of higher education.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <https://sites.google.com/site/mvprutgers/contact-us>

### **Penn Program on Documentaries & the Law**

<https://www.law.upenn.edu/institutes/documentaries/>

The Penn Program on Documentaries & the Law promotes visual legal advocacy, and includes the Clemency Video Project made on behalf of capital defendants and those imprisoned for life without the possibility of parole.

Contact:  
Regina Austin  
William A. Schnader Professor  
Director, Penn Program on Documentaries & the Law  
University of Pennsylvania Law School  
3501 Sansom Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6204  
Phone: 215 898 5185  
Email: [raustin@law.upenn.edu](mailto:raustin@law.upenn.edu)

### **Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project**

<http://p-nap.org/what.html>

Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project provides workshops on poetry, visual arts, film study, and history to men at Stateville Prison in Creshill, Illinois.

Contact:  
[contactpnap@gmail.com](mailto:contactpnap@gmail.com)

### **Prison Arts Coalition**

<http://theprisonartscoalition.com/programs/>

The Prison Arts Coalition is a national network that provides opportunities for support, information, and partnership to those engaging in prison arts.

Contact:  
Becky Mer and Wendy Jason, PAC Managers  
Email: [pacoalitionadmin@gmail.com](mailto:pacoalitionadmin@gmail.com)

### **Prison Arts + Education Project**

<http://www.humsci.auburn.edu/apalp/#involved>

The Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project is focused on providing education in the arts, humanities, hard sciences, and human sciences to incarcerated adult communities. The APAEP is facilitated through Auburn University.

Contact:  
203 Spidle Hall (Mailing address)  
220 M. White Smith (Office address)  
Auburn, Alabama USA 36849  
Phone: 334 844 8946  
Email: [apaepau@auburn.edu](mailto:apaepau@auburn.edu)

### **Prison Arts Outreach Program – Boston College**

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/artscouncil/prison-arts-outreach.html>

The Prison Arts Outreach Program connects Boston College students with incarcerated populations. Students (undergraduate or graduate), faculty, and staff volunteer to conduct workshops on theatre, dance, music, art, and creative writing.

Contact:  
Email: [asrp@bc.edu](mailto:asrp@bc.edu)

### **Prison Arts Program – Offender Victim Ministries**

<http://offendervictimministries.org/program/prison-art/>

Offender Victim Ministries provides programming that includes courses on music, drama, creative writing, book discussion groups, and visual arts.

Contact:  
Nathan Koontz, Director of Prison Ministries  
900 N. Poplar, Suite 200  
Newton, KS 67114  
Phone: 316 283 2038  
Email: [m-2.ovm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m-2.ovm@sbcglobal.net)

### **Prison Creative Arts Project – University of Michigan:**

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/pcap>

The Prison Creative Arts Project, housed at the University of Michigan, enables faculty and students to work with community members both inside and outside prisons to engage in workshops in theatre, dance, visual art, creative writing, slam poetry, and music.

Contact:  
1801 East Quad  
701 E. University  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1245  
Phone: 734 647 7673  
Email: [pcapinfo@umich.edu](mailto:pcapinfo@umich.edu)

### **Prison Diary Program – Anne Frank Center, USA**

<http://annefrank.com/prison-diary-program/>

The Prison Diary Program uses the *Diary of Anne Frank* as an inspirational tool for incarcerated people.

Contact:  
44 Park Place  
New York NY 10007  
Phone: 212 431 7993  
Email: [info@annefrank.com](mailto:info@annefrank.com)

### **Prison Education Project**

<http://www.prisoneducationproject.org>

The Prison Education Project operates in several California prisons and seeks to reduce recidivism and create a prison-to-school pipeline.

Contact:  
Email: [prisoneducationproject@gmail.com](mailto:prisoneducationproject@gmail.com)

### **Prison Honor Program**

<http://www.prisonhonorprogram.org/Purpose.htm>

The Prison Honor Program, created by prisoners, exists to promote healing and safety in maximum-security prisons.

Contact:  
Email: [prisonhonorprogram@hotmail.com](mailto:prisonhonorprogram@hotmail.com)

### **Prison Mindfulness Institute**

<http://www.prisonmindfulness.org/about-us/>

The Prison Mindfulness Institute strives to bring mindfulness-based interventions to prisoners, prison staff, and prison volunteers to promote rehabilitation and development.

Contact:  
11 S. Angell St. #303  
Providence, RI 02906  
Email (online form): <http://www.prisonmindfulness.org/contact-us/>

### **Prison Public Memory Project**

<http://prisonpublicmemory.org>

This project utilizes public history, art, and new technologies in order to begin a dialogue with communities about the roles prisons play in our society.

Contact:

Tracy Huling, Founder/Director  
Email: [tracy@hudsonprisonmemory.org](mailto:tracy@hudsonprisonmemory.org)  
Brian Buckley, Hudson Site Coordinator  
Email: [brian@hudsonprisonmemory.org](mailto:brian@hudsonprisonmemory.org)

### **Prison University Project**

<http://www.prisonuniversityproject.org>

The Prison University Project's goal is to bring higher education programs to San Quentin State Prison.

Contact:

Email (online form): <http://www.prisonuniversityproject.org/contact/contact-us>

### **Prison Yoga Project**

<http://prisonyoga.org>

The Prison Yoga Project enables prisoners to be able to draw upon what they have learned while doing yoga during everyday situations.

Contact:

PO Box 415  
Bollinas CA, 94924

### **Prisoner Correspondence Project**

<http://www.prisoner Correspondence Project.com>

The Prisoner Correspondence Project links incarcerated people who identify as gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgender, gendervariant, two-spirit, intersex, bisexual and/or queer in Canada and the United States with people outside of prison who identify as part of these communities.

Contact:

1455 de Maisonneuve O  
Montreal, QC H3G 1M8  
Phone: 514 848 7583  
Email: [info@prisoner Correspondence Project.com](mailto:info@prisoner Correspondence Project.com)

### **Prisoner Express**

<http://www.prisonerexpress.org>

The Prison Express Program promotes prisoner self-expression through writing and journaling, coordinates a pen pal project for prisoners, and runs a volunteer program to send books to incarcerated people.

Contact:

127 Anabel Taylor Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Phone: 607 255 6486  
Email: [alt-lib@cornell.edu](mailto:alt-lib@cornell.edu)

### **Prodigy: Transforming Young Lives Program**

<http://www.transformingyounglives.org>

Prodigy provides visual and performing arts to youth who either live in high-risk neighborhoods or have been diverted from the juvenile justice system.

Contact:

Phone: 866 963 7622  
Email (online form): [http://www.transformingyounglives.org/index.php?option=com\\_forume&Itemid=5](http://www.transformingyounglives.org/index.php?option=com_forume&Itemid=5)

### **Rehabilitation through the Arts**

<http://www.rta-arts.org>

Rehabilitation through the Arts provides five New York State prisons with multi-disciplinary arts programming, including programs in theatre, dance, creative writing, voice, and visual art.

Contact:

12 Huntville Road  
Katonah, NY 10536-2002  
914 232 7566  
[info@rta-arts.org](mailto:info@rta-arts.org)

### **Safe Streets Arts Foundation**

<http://www.safestreetsarts.org>

Safe Streets Arts Foundation helps show and sell the art of prison artists, and also provides incarcerated artists, musicians, and writers with resources, mentors, and connections.

Contact:

2512 Virginia Ave. NW #58043  
Washington, DC 20037  
Email: [staff@safestreetsarts.org](mailto:staff@safestreetsarts.org)

### **San Quentin Prison Art**

<http://sanquentinprisonart.com>

San Quentin Prison Art sells prison art by incarcerated people on Death Row in San Quentin.

Contact:

835 Cazadero Hwy  
Cazadero, CA 95421  
Phone: 707 788 6006

### **Scottish Prison Arts Network**

<http://www.scottishprisonarts.net>

The Scottish Prison Arts Network is a network that seeks to connect artists engaged in the field of criminal justice.

Contact:

Artlink Central, Cowane Centre  
Cowane Street, Stirling, FK8 1JP  
Email: [robin@s-p-a-n.co.uk](mailto:robin@s-p-a-n.co.uk)

### **Suspension Stories**

<http://www.suspensionstories.com/art/>

Suspension Stories seeks to reveal issues surrounding the school-to-prison pipeline through a youth-led participatory action research project.

Contact:

[chiyouthjustice@gmail.com](mailto:chiyouthjustice@gmail.com)

### **Sustainability in Prisons Project**

<http://sustainabilityinprisons.org>

The Sustainability in Prisons Project creates programming that connects incarcerated populations with biologists and farmers in order to expose them to science and conservation.

Contact:

Kelli Bush, SPP Program Manager  
Lab 2 2257, Evergreen State College  
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW  
Olympia, WA 98505  
Phone: 360 867 6863  
Email: [bushk@evergreen.edu](mailto:bushk@evergreen.edu)

### **Theatre of Hearts – Youth First**

[http://www.theatreofhearts.org/?page\\_id=37](http://www.theatreofhearts.org/?page_id=37)

Theatre Of Hearts – Youth First brings multi-disciplinary arts and educational programs to schools and community sites for youth aged 4-18 throughout Los Angeles County.

Contact:

672 South Lafayette Park Place, Suite 47  
Los Angeles, CA 90057-3238  
Phone: 213 384 6878  
Email: [info@theatreofhearts.org](mailto:info@theatreofhearts.org)

### **Truth Be Told**

<http://www.truth-be-told.org/about-tbt/>

Truth Be Told is an organization that provides programming focused on developing skills in writing, public speaking, or performance arts for incarcerated women.

Contact:

P.O. Box 40221  
Austin, Texas 78704-0221  
Phone: 512 292 6200  
Email (online form): <http://www.truth-be-told.org/contact-us/>

### **Voices Behind Walls**

<http://voicesbehindwalls.org/aboutus/>

Voices Behind Walls (VBW) promotes creative expression and education for youth, adults, and families involved with the justice system.

Contact:

Email: [voicesbehindwalls@gmail.com](mailto:voicesbehindwalls@gmail.com)

### **Voices Unbroken**

<http://www.voicesunbroken.org/#!limpact/c3ty>

Voices Unbroken provides creative writing, communications, and leadership programs to young people in detention.

Contact:

1414 Metropolitan Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Bronx, NY 10462  
Phone: 718 684 2125  
Email: [info@voicesunbroken.org](mailto:info@voicesunbroken.org)

### **William James Association – Prison Arts Project**

[http://williamjamesassociation.org/prison\\_arts/](http://williamjamesassociation.org/prison_arts/)

The William James Association Prison Arts Project provides transformative arts experiences in nontraditional settings, working with prisoners, high-risk youth, and parolees.

Contact:

P.O. Box 1632  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
Phone: 831 607 8952  
Email: [info@williamjamesassociation.org](mailto:info@williamjamesassociation.org)

### **Woman is the Word**

[http://michelelisetarter.faculty.tcnj.edu/beta6/prison\\_project.html](http://michelelisetarter.faculty.tcnj.edu/beta6/prison_project.html)

This memoir-writing program runs in New Jersey's only maximum-security prison for women. TCNJ students and faculty teach a 10-week writing workshop each spring semester.

Contact:

Professor Michelle Lise Tarter  
Department of English, The College of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 7718  
2000 Pennington Road  
Ewing, NJ 08628  
Phone: 609 771 3115  
Email: [tarter@tcnj.edu](mailto:tarter@tcnj.edu)

### **Women + Prison**

<http://womenandprison.org>

Women and Prison: A Site for Resistance comprises of an installation, as well as a website and zine that document women's experiences in the criminal justice system.

Contact:

4001 N. Ravenswood #204 B  
Chicago, IL 60613  
Phone: 773 857 7300  
Email: [info@womenandprison.org](mailto:info@womenandprison.org)

### **Women Rising / Rising Voices**

<http://www.communityworkswest.org/index.php/women-risingrising-voices>

Rising Voices brings weekly creative writing workshop to incarcerated women at San Francisco's County Jail 8 and offers paid writing and performance internships to previously incarcerated women.

Contact:

4681 Telegraph Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94609  
Phone: 510 486 2340  
Email: [info@communityworkswest.org](mailto:info@communityworkswest.org)

# Support for Incarcerated People and their Families

## Alternatives to Violence Project

<http://avpusa.org/>

The Alternatives to Violence Project works nationally and internationally in prisons and in communities to provide conflict management workshops and to encourage people to live nonviolent lives.

Contact:  
1050 Selby Ave.  
St. Paul MN 55104  
Phone: 888 278 7820  
Email: [info@avpusa.org](mailto:info@avpusa.org)

## American Friends Service Committee Prison Watch Program

<https://afsc.org/category/topic/prison-watch>

American Friends Service Committee Prison Watch Program monitors human rights abuses in U.S. federal and state prisons, focusing particularly on the use of isolation and torture.

Contact:  
Bonnie Kerness  
89 Market Street, 6th floor  
Newark NJ, 07102  
973 643 3192  
Email: [bkerness@afsc.org](mailto:bkerness@afsc.org)

## Barrios Unidos

<http://www.barriosunidos.net>

Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos Prison Project is dedicated to providing cultural and spiritual education, support, and hope to incarcerated individuals. The Project advocates for prison policy reform and programs that reduce recidivism, support re-entry, and re-unify families.

Contact:  
1817 Soquel Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
831 457 8208  
Email: [nane@barriosunidos.net](mailto:nane@barriosunidos.net)

## Black and Pink

<http://www.blackandpink.org>

Black & Pink provides support for LGBTQ prisoners and connects them with “free world” allies.

Contact:  
614 Columbia Rd.  
Dorchester, MA 02125  
Phone: 617 519 4387  
Email: [members@blackandpink.org](mailto:members@blackandpink.org)

## California Appellate Project

<http://www.capsf.org>

The California Appellate Project in San Francisco (CAP-SF) provides legal resources for people facing prosecution.

Contact:  
101 Second Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Phone: 415 495 0500  
Facsimile: 415 495 5616

## California Coalition for Women Prisoners

<http://womenprisoners.org>

California Coalition for Women Prisoners strives to raise awareness of the institutional violence faced by those currently incarcerated within the Prison Industrial Complex (including populations such as women, transgender people, and communities of color) through grassroots organizing, as well as publishing a newsletter called *The Fire Inside* (<http://www.womenprisoners.org/fire/>).

Contact:  
1540 Market St., Suite 490  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 415 255 7036 ext. 4  
Email: [info@womenprisoners.org](mailto:info@womenprisoners.org)

## Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services

<http://www.cases.org>

Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES) assists individuals in living productive lives by running programs that allow judges to offer alternatives to incarceration.

Contact:  
151 Lawrence Street, 3rd Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Phone: 212 553 6300  
Email: [info@cases.org](mailto:info@cases.org)

## Center for Constitutional Rights

<http://ccrjustice.org>

The Center for Constitutional Rights seeks to protect the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Center strives to utilize law as a force for social change.

Contact:  
666 Broadway, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10012  
Phone: 212 614 6464  
Email (online form): <http://ccrjustice.org/contacting-center-constitutional-rights>

## Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights

<http://www.prisonerhealth.org>

The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights uses education, research, and advocacy to improve the health and human rights of populations involved in the criminal justice system.

Contact:  
8 Third Street, 2nd Floor  
Providence, RI 02906  
Phone: 401 793 4783  
Email: [bbrockmann@lifespan.org](mailto:bbrockmann@lifespan.org)

## Center for Young Women’s Development

<http://cywd.org>

The Center for Young Women’s Development strives for the empowerment of young women who are incarcerated.

Contact:  
832 Folsom Street, Suite #700  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
Phone: 415 703 8800

## Citizens for Juvenile Justice

<http://www.cfjj.org>

Citizens for Juvenile Justice seeks to improve the juvenile justice system in Massachusetts through conducting research, advocacy, and educating the public on issues around the juvenile justice system.

Contact:  
44 School Street, Suite 400  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
Phone: 617 338 1050  
Email: [cfjj@cfjj.org](mailto:cfjj@cfjj.org)

## Communities United Against Police Brutality

<http://www.cuapb.org>

Communities United Against Police Brutality™ addresses day-to-day abuses of police brutality, with the ultimate goal of creating resistance to the abuse of authority by police.

Contact:  
4200 Cedar Ave S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
Phone: 612 874 7867  
Email (online form): <http://www.cuapb.org/contact-us>

## Communities United for Police Reform

<http://changethenypd.org>

Communities United for Police Reform pushes for legislation to end profiling and discrimination by police organizations in New York City, including discriminatory “stop and frisk” practices.

Contact:  
Email (online form): <http://changethenypd.org/contact>

## Critical Resistance

<http://criticalresistance.org>

Critical Resistance’s ultimate goal is to build an international movement to end the prison industrial complex.

Contact:  
1904 Franklin Street, Suite 504  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: 510 444 0484  
Email: [crnational@criticalresistance.org](mailto:crnational@criticalresistance.org)

## Equal Justice Initiative

<http://www.eji.org>

The Equal Justice Initiative provides legal representation to defendants and incarcerated populations who have not received fair and just treatment within the legal system.

Contact:  
122 Commerce St.  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
Phone: 334 269 1803  
Email: [contact\\_us@ej.org](mailto:contact_us@ej.org)

## Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People’s Movement

<https://ficpmovement.wordpress.com>

Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People’s Movement utilizes litigation, advocacy, and mass mobilization in order to transform the criminal justice system and find alternatives to incarceration.

Contact:  
Aaliyah:  
916 501 9988  
Fanya:  
562 688 0472

## Fresh Lifelines for Youth

<http://flyprogram.org>

Fresh Lifelines for Youth combines legal education, leadership training, and mentoring to help youth on probation.

Contact:  
568 Valley Way  
Milpitas, CA 95035  
Phone: 408 263 2630  
Email (online form): <http://flyprogram.org/contact/>

## Innocence Project

<http://www.innocenceproject.org>

The Innocence Project is a national litigation and public policy organization that utilizes DNA testing in order to help incarcerated people prove their innocence.

Contact:  
40 Worth St., Suite 701  
New York, NY 10013  
Phone: 212 364 5340  
Email: [info@innocenceproject.org](mailto:info@innocenceproject.org)

### **Just Detention International**

<http://www.justdetention.org>

Just Detention International works toward the end of sexual abuse in all forms of detention.

Contact:

3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Phone: 213 384 1400  
Email: [info@justdetention.org](mailto:info@justdetention.org)

### **Justice Committee**

<http://www.justicecommittee.org>

Justice Committee strives to build a movement against police violence and systemic racism in New York City.

Contact:

105 East 22nd St., Room 103  
New York, NY 10010  
Phone: 212 614 5343  
Email: [info@justicecommittee.com](mailto:info@justicecommittee.com)

### **Last Mile**

<https://thelastmile.org>

The Last Mile is a program focused on providing business and technology training for incarcerated populations in order to better prepare them for gainful employment upon their release.

Contact:

Email: [info@thelastmile.org](mailto:info@thelastmile.org)

### **Legal Aid Society**

<http://www.legal-aid.org/en/home.aspx>

Legal Aid Society provides education, training and comprehensive legal representation to its clients.

Contact:

199 Water Street  
New York, NY 10038  
Phone: 212 577 3300

### **Legal Services for Prisoners With Children**

<http://www.prisonerswithchildren.org>

Legal Services for Prisoners With Children organizes communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocates to release incarcerated people, to restore human and civil rights, and to reunify families and communities.

Contact:

1540 Market St., Suite 490  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 415 255 7036  
Email: [info@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:info@prisonerswithchildren.org)

### **Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition**

<http://www.maineprisoneradvocacy.org/index.html>

The Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition (MPAC) promotes ethical, positive, and humane changes within Maine's prison system.

Contact:

PO Box 2173  
Waterville, ME 04903-2173  
Email: [maineprisoneradvocacy@yahoo.com](mailto:maineprisoneradvocacy@yahoo.com)

### **Mothers Against Police Brutality**

<http://www.mothersagainstpolicebrutality.com/about>

Mothers Against Police Brutality (MAPB) is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic coalition that organizes mothers across the nation to fight for civil rights, police accountability, and police reform.

Contact:

512 N. Hampton Rd. #148  
Desoto, TX 75115

### **NAACP – Legal Defense and Education Fund**

<http://www.naacpldf.org>

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) challenges inadequate legal representation, discriminatory jury selection, capital punishment, criminal statutes, and harsh sentencing that disproportionately affect the African American community.

Contact:

40 Rector Street, 5th floor  
New York, NY 10006  
Phone: 212 965 2200

### **National Police Accountability Project**

<http://www.nlg-npap.org>

The National Police Accountability Project (NPAP) consists of plaintiff's lawyers, law students, and legal workers, and strives to end police abuse of authority through coordinated legal action, public education, and support for grassroots as well as victims' organizations.

Contact:

499 7th Avenue 12N  
New York, NY 10018  
Phone: 212 630 9939  
Email: [npap@nlg.org](mailto:npap@nlg.org)

### **A New Way of Life Reentry Project**

<http://www.anewwayoflife.org>

A New Way of Life provides housing, support services, and leadership development to formerly incarcerated women in South Central Los Angeles to enable them to successfully transition from prison.

Contact:

PO Box 875288  
Los Angeles, CA 90087  
Phone: 323 563 3575

### **New York Civil Liberties Union**

<http://www.nyclu.org>

The New York affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union promotes and protects the values in the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution, and the New York Constitution.

Contact:

125 Broad Street,  
New York NY 10004  
Phone: 212 607 3300

### **New York State Prisoner Justice Network**

<http://www.nysprisonerjustice.org>

The New York State Prisoner Justice Network strives to explore, plan, strategize, and organize collaboration between organizations and individuals working toward changing the criminal injustice system.

Contact:

33 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210  
Phone: 518 434 4037  
Email: [nysprisonerjustice@gmail.com](mailto:nysprisonerjustice@gmail.com)

### **New York Therapeutic Communities, Inc.**

<http://www.staynout.org/about.php>

New York Therapeutic Communities, Inc. (NYTC) provides substance abuse treatment primarily to incarcerated adults in the criminal justice system.

Contact:

266 West 37th Street, 21st Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
Phone: 212 971 6033  
Email (online form): <http://www.staynout.org/contact.php>

### **Parenting Inside Out**

<http://www.parentinginsideout.org>

Parenting Inside Out provides evidence-based, parenting skills training programs (the *Parenting Inside Out*® program) to parents involved in the criminal justice system.

Contact:

Mindy Clark  
Phone: 503 977 6399  
Email: [mindy@childrensjusticealliance.org](mailto:mindy@childrensjusticealliance.org)

### **People's Justice for Community Control and Police Accountability**

<http://peoplesjustice.org/about>

People's Justice for Community Control and Police Accountability is a coalition of grassroots organizations working in Black, Latino, and Asian communities seeking to create police accountability through community education, empowerment, and organizing.

Contact:

Phone: 212 614 5343  
Email: [info@peoplesjustice.org](mailto:info@peoplesjustice.org)

### **Police Reform Organizing Project**

<http://www.policereformorganizingproject.org>

The Police Reform Organizing Project utilizes research, analysis, public education, policy advocacy and coalition building in order to end unjust and racially biased practices in the New York Police Department.

Contact:

Director, Robert Gangi  
307 West 36th Street, 12th floor  
New York, NY 10018  
Phone: 917 327 7648  
Email: [prop@proprnyc.org](mailto:prop@proprnyc.org)

### **Power Inside**

<http://www.powerinside.org>

Power Inside seeks to prevent the incarceration of women and families in Baltimore through direct client services, advocacy, leadership development, and public education.

Contact:

325 E. 25th St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Phone: 410 889 8333  
Email: [contact@powerinside.org](mailto:contact@powerinside.org)

### **Prison Action Network**

<http://prisonaction.blogspot.com/>

Prison Action Network connects people who are incarcerated or who have an incarcerated loved one in New York State with people who care about the impact of incarceration to work together for social justice.

Contact:

PO Box 6355  
Albany, NY 12206  
Email: [prisonactionnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:prisonactionnetwork@gmail.com)

### **Prison Activist Resource Center**

<https://www.prisonactivist.org>

The Prison Activist Resource Center (PARC) works on prison abolition and exposing institutionalized racism, sexism, able-ism, heterosexism, and classism in the prison industrial complex. PARC also produces a free directory for prisoners.

Contact:

PO Box 70447  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: 510 893 4648  
Email (online form): <https://www.prisonactivist.org/contact>

### **Prison Entrepreneurship Program**

<http://www.pep.org>

The Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP) seeks to connect executives, entrepreneurs, and students with incarcerated populations.

Contact:

P.O. Box 926274  
Houston, TX 77292-6274  
Email: [info@pep.org](mailto:info@pep.org)

### Prison Pet Partnership

<http://www.prisonpetpartnership.org/index.htm>

Prison Pet Partnership provides incarcerated populations with the opportunity to learn pet-industry related vocation skills.

Contact:  
9601 Bujacich Road NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332  
Phone: 253 858 4240  
Email: [info@prisonpetpartnership.org](mailto:info@prisonpetpartnership.org)

### Prison Policy Initiative

<http://www.prisonpolicy.org>

The Prison Policy Initiative produces research that exposes the harm of mass criminalization in order to spark advocacy campaigns that strive to create a more just society.

Contact:  
PO Box 127  
Northampton, MA 01061  
Email (online form): <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/contact.html>

### Prison S.M.A.R.T. Program

<http://www.prisonsmart.org>

The Prison S.M.A.R.T. Program provides tools for people involved in the criminal justice system to reduce stress and heal trauma.

Contact:  
2401 15th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
Phone: 888 673 8999  
Email: [prisonsmart@iahv.org](mailto:prisonsmart@iahv.org)

### Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

<http://plsny.org>

The mission of the Prisoners' Legal Services of New York is to offer effective legal representation and assistance to incarcerated populations in order to secure their civil and human rights.

Contact:  
41 State Street, Suite M112  
Albany, NY 12207  
Email (online form): <http://plsny.org/contact/Project NIA>

### Project NIA

<http://www.project-nia.org>

Project NIA strives to end youth incarceration by reducing reliance on arrest and detention, and by promoting restorative and transformative practices.

Contact:  
Mariame Kaba  
Phone: 773 392 5165  
Email: [mariame@project-nia.org](mailto:mariame@project-nia.org)

### Real Cost of Prisons Project

<http://www.realcostofprisons.org>

The Real Cost of Prisons Project pursues legal and grassroots activism and advocacy on behalf of incarcerated populations.

Contact:  
5 Warfield Place  
Northampton, MA 01060  
Email: [info@realcostofprisons.org](mailto:info@realcostofprisons.org)

### Resettlement Program – Community Partners In Action

<http://www.cpa-ct.org/resettlement/>

This program seeks to assist people leaving prison with returning back to their communities.

Contact:  
110 Bartholomew Avenue, 4th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Email: [oellison@cpa-ct.org](mailto:oellison@cpa-ct.org)

### Rutgers University Correctional Health Care

<http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/uchc/index.html>

University Correctional Health Care (UCHC), operating within Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is dedicated to excellence in providing physical, mental health, dental and sex offender treatment services to the people of New Jersey involved in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Contact:  
University Correctional Health Care  
Bates Building, 2nd Floor  
PO Box 863  
Whittlesey Road & Stuyvesant Avenue  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Phone: 609 292 4036 x5228  
Email: [contactuchc@ubhc.rutgers.edu](mailto:contactuchc@ubhc.rutgers.edu)

### Sentencing Project

<http://www.sentencingproject.org/template/page.cfm?id=2>

The Sentencing Project's ultimate goal is to work toward a fair and effective criminal justice system by pursuing sentencing policy reforms and promoting alternatives to incarceration.

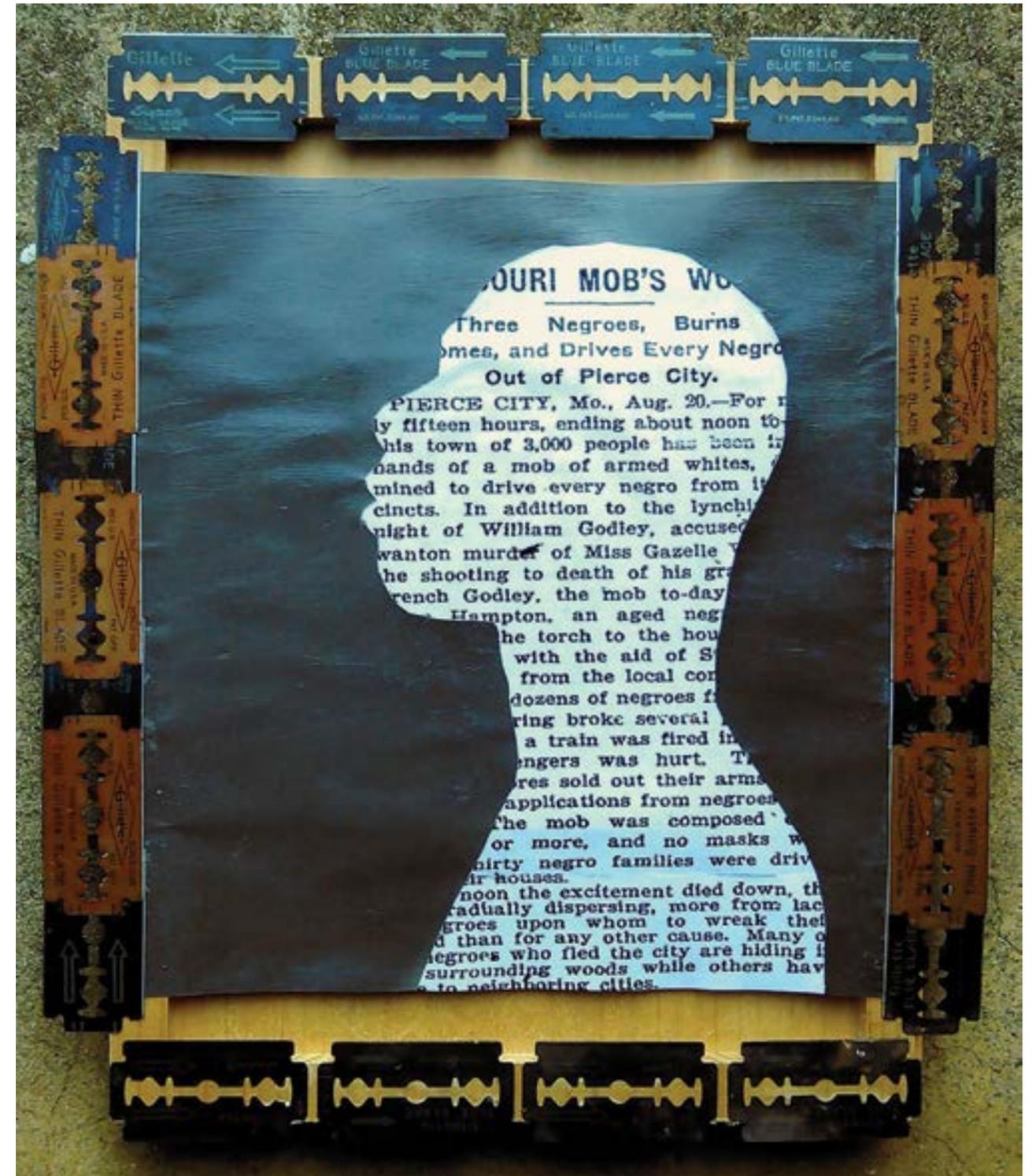
Contact:  
1705 DeSales Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202 628 0871  
Email: [staff@sentencingproject.org](mailto:staff@sentencingproject.org)

### Transition from Jail to Community Initiative

<http://www.urban.org/projects/tjc/index.cfm>

Transition from Jail to Community strives to create the best possible outcomes for individuals upon release from prison.

Contact:  
Email: [tjc@urban.org](mailto:tjc@urban.org)



And they Stay Hungry for Dark Meat

Sean Saifa Wall

Mixed media, 10x12 inches. Using the 1901 Riots in Pierce City, MO, as a backdrop, this piece reflects on the premature death of Black men and women at the hands of police and white vigilante violence.

**Vera Institute of Justice**

<http://www.vera.org/about-us>

The Vera Institute of Justice seeks to improve the criminal justice system through research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance for leaders in government and civil society.

Contact:  
233 Broadway, 12th Floor  
New York, NY 10279  
Phone: 212 334 1300

**Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform**

<http://www.vermontersforcriminaljusticereform.org/about-us>

Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform focuses on education and advocacy to decrease incarceration.

Contact:  
177 Locust Terrace  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Phone: 802 864 5651  
Email: [vcjr@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:vcjr@burlingtontelecom.net)

**Witness Against Torture**

<http://www.witnesstorture.org>

Witness Against Torture organizes to shut down detention facilities at Guantanamo.

Contact:  
Email (online form):  
<http://www.witnesstorture.org/contact/>

**Women on the Rise!**

<http://www.womenontherise-worth.org>

*WORTH* (Women On the Rise Telling HerStory) consists of currently and formerly incarcerated women who advocate for others by engaging, navigating, and challenging policy as well as perceptions of those in prison.

Contact:  
171 E. 122nd St.  
New York, NY 10035-2945  
Phone: 917 626 8168  
Email: [info@womenontherise-worth.org](mailto:info@womenontherise-worth.org)

**Women's Prison Association**

<http://www.wpaonline.org>

Women's Prison Association offers support to women who are currently incarcerated as well as after leaving prison.

Contact:  
110 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10003  
Phone: 646 292 7740  
Email: [info@wpaonline.org](mailto:info@wpaonline.org)

**Yes, In My Backyard Project**

<http://www.yesinmybackyard.org>

The Yes, In My Backyard Project distributes information about the closing and reusing of prisons throughout the United States. They aim to assist government, communities, and businesses with the repurposing of prisons throughout the country.

Contact:  
Tracy Huling  
Email: [tracy@tracyhuling.com](mailto:tracy@tracyhuling.com)

## Newsletters / Books / Online Resources

**Coalition for Prisoners' Rights Newsletter**

<http://www.realcostofprisons.org/coalition.html>

**The Fire Inside Newsletter**

<http://www.womenprisoners.org/fire/>

**Health and Incarceration: A Workshop Summary (available for free online):**

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/18372/health-and-incarceration-a-workshop-summary>

**Incarcerated Fathers Library**

<https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/resources/library/incarcerated-fathers-library/>

**Jail and Prisoner Law Resources**

<http://www.aele.org/law/jb-resources.html>

**Journal of Prisoners on Prisons**

<http://www.jpp.org>

**Liberation Prison Project**

[http://www.liberationprisonproject.org/ourprograms/free\\_books\\_and\\_materials.php](http://www.liberationprisonproject.org/ourprograms/free_books_and_materials.php)

**National Prison Resource List – Books in Prison Organizations**

<http://www.prisonbookprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/nprl-2014.pdf>

**The New Jim Crow – Michelle Alexander**

<http://newjimcrow.com>

**Newsletter Archive – Prison University Project**

<http://www.prisonuniversityproject.org/newsletter-archive>

**Oregon CURE – Newsletter**

<http://oregoncure.org/prison-newsletters/>

**Prison Focus Newsletter**

<http://www.prisons.org/publications.htm>

**Prison Law Blog – Prisoner Newsletter**

<http://www.prisonlawblog.com/prisoner-newsletter/>

**Prison Law Project – Jailhouse Lawyers Handbook**

<http://jailouselaw.org>

**Prison Writings: My Life is My Sun Dance – Leonard Peltier**

<http://www.amazon.com/Prison-Writings-Life-Sun-Dance/dp/0312263805>

**Prisoner Express**

<http://www.prisonerexpress.org/?mode=newsletter>

**Prisoner Resource List – BAR NONE**

<https://barnonearcata.wordpress.com/prisoner-resource-list/>

**Prisoner Resources.com**

<http://www.prisonerresources.com>

**Prisoner's Rights Law**

<http://www.hg.org/prisoner-rights-law.htm>

**Razor Wire Women**

<https://razorwirewomen.wordpress.com/about/>

**Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women**

<http://resistancebehindbars.org>

**Resource Guide for Inmates and the Families of Prisoners**

<http://insidebooksproject.org/resource-guide/>

**Women's Prison Activism Archive**

<http://bcw.barnard.edu/archive/prison.htm>

## Resources for Families of People in Prison

**Band Back Together – Loved One in Prison Resources**

<http://www.bandbacktogether.com/Loved-One-in-Prison-Resources/>

**Children of Incarcerated Parents**

<http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/children-of-incarcerated-parents>

**Children With Incarcerated Parents**

<http://www.aecf.org/resources/children-with-incarcerated-parents/>

**Children of Inmates**

<http://www.childrenofinmates.org>

**Families of Incarcerated Individuals, Inc.**

<http://familiesofincarcerated.org/index.htm>

**Mothers of Incarcerated Sons Society, Inc.**

<http://www.mothersofinmates.org>

**The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated**

<http://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu>

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