Knitting for Lifers  by Jane Dorotik, CIW

Knitting sweaters for lifers started as a political statement, a way to shine a light on the plight of lifers, to educate the “free world” community. Now, the sweaters have become a symbol of eventual release. Here is how it started.

There was a Women’s History Day event at CIW, which included an art contest. The event was a big deal because many community members would be attending, including some local legislators. Since I had become a regular knitter (my way of maintaining sanity in prison), I decided that entering the contest with a few sweaters grouped around a statement about lifers might be one way to highlight this problem. I knit 5 sweaters for specific lifers and placed their names on the sweaters so the attendees would know who these people are. I ended up winning the contest. During the awards ceremony I was asked to hold up one of the sweaters bearing a lifer’s name for the audience and saw how powerful this identification could be. The women whose sweaters I had displayed felt blessed and somehow chosen for release. Most lifers have a very tenuous thread of hope that they will ever be released from prison. And hope, no matter where you find yourself in life, is so very important.

I began knitting sweaters for any lifer who would “claim” their freedom. Each woman picks the yarn color and pattern so she has her choice in her special sweater. Thank goodness for the generous benefactors who send me yarn—mostly my dear sister, Bonnie. I tell women to visualize walking through those prison gates wearing their sweater and imagine how it will feel when they are finally released from prison. Women began saying the sweaters were magic, and that “if Jane knits you a sweater” then you are pretty well assured of gaining your rightful freedom either through the Parole Board or through a writ in the courts. Some people cry and hug their sweater as I present it to them.

No matter how many times I’ve said that the sweaters are just a symbol for how the women view their future, they continue to believe that receiving a sweater is magic and means freedom. At the same time, women were being released more frequently, mostly from writs in the courts, with 11 of the 25 women who have received sweaters winning release from prison.

Louise is one woman with a wonderful story of hope. 70 years old, locked away for 33 years on a 7-to-life sentence, she had done everything the parole
On November 30, 2010 the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in Schwarzenegger vs. Plata, 09-1233. The state of California (CA) is appealing the 2009 ruling by a Federal three–judge panel requiring the state to reduce its prison population to 137.5% of capacity. Currently California’s prisons are close to 200% overfull, and some prisons are over 300%! The three-judge panel found that medical and mental health care in CA prisons was so deficient it violated the Constitution’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. At one point, bad medical care caused one “avoidable” death every 6 to 7 days.

After many years of failing to improve conditions, the Federal panel concluded that health care could only improve if the overcrowding was reduced and ordered the state to come up with a plan by 2012. The panel cited testimony from prison administrators that crowded prisons reduce public safety since they make rehabilitation impossible. The panel also said that the state could safely reduce the prison population by changing parole practices and releasing some low-risk prisoners to county jails and other local custody facilities.

CA appealed the ruling, arguing that the Federal judges had exceeded their judicial authority under the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA). They argued that CA wasn’t given a reasonable amount of time to correct the medical care violations and that the crowdfunding reduction order was too intrusive because alternate remedies were available. At the Supreme Court hearing, CA’s lawyer, Carter Phillips, said there have been improvements in health care and more could be achieved by transferring prisoners out-of-state and building more prisons.

Some of the Justices seemed skeptical of California’s arguments. Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked, “When are you going to avoid the needless deaths?” And Justice Anthony Kennedy said that the three-judge panel had made a “perfectly reasonable decision.” But Justice Samuel Alito implied that crime would increase if prisoners were released, and other justices indicated that they might be willing to narrow the scope of the order or reduce the number of releases required.

The Supreme Court will make a ruling on the case by June 2011. The ACLU (which filed an amicus brief supporting Plata) wrote in an Op-Ed in the New York Times that other states, including Michigan and New York, have concluded that current levels of incarceration are neither effective nor affordable and have cut their prison populations significantly. CCWP will be working with the CURB alliance in the coming months to publicize and support the prison reduction mandated by the three-judge panel.

State Senator Leland Yee (SF) introduced SB9 in December 2010, a bill making it possible for young people sentenced to Life without Parole (LWOP) to request a review of their crime and their conduct after 10 years in prison. A person could be resentenced to 25 years to life, offering a shred of hope for release. This bill is similar to SB399 which was defeated in August 2010.

Although insufficient, SB9 is a step in the right direction. Elizabeth Lozano, a member of the CCWF Juvenile Offender Committee who is serving LWOP, said, “I ask you to please get involved in ending this draconian sentence of youth LWOP. Have family and friends write letters to the legislature. SB9 is a bill that offers youth the second chance they deserve.”

For more info:
www.fairsentencingforyouth.org

or write to:
Human Rights Watch
11500 W. Olympic Blvd. #441
Los Angeles, CA 90064
On January 7, 2011, Jamie and Gladys Scott were freed after 16 years of unjust incarceration in Mississippi. In *The Fire Inside* #41 and #42, we shared this story of injustice—sentenced to life, for a 1994 robbery of $11! Jamie has been seriously ill for many years. Mrs. Evelyn Rasco, mother of the Scott sisters, led a powerful advocacy campaign that was joined by the NAACP and many other individuals and organizations to demand justice and freedom for the two sisters.

Gladys was released on condition that she donates a kidney to her sister. While Gladys has said often that she wished to do this, many eyebrows were raised at Mississippi Governor Barbour making this a condition of Gladys’ release and continued freedom. Only time will tell if Gladys is an appropriate donor for Jamie, but the two were allowed to return to Florida where they are reunited with their family. Welcome home Jamie and Gladys!

### Ohio and Georgia Prisoners Go On Strike

From December 9-17, 2010 thousands of Georgia prisoners peacefully protested in one of the biggest prison strikes in U.S. history. The prisoners shut down all activities at most of the prisons and called for: an end to cruel and unusual punishment, decent living conditions, better access to family, just parole decisions, more educational opportunities, a living wage for work, improved healthcare, nutritional meals, vocational and self-improvement opportunities. The prison strike ended, but organizing efforts are ongoing.

Four prisoners at the State Penitentiary in Lucasville, Ohio, went on hunger strike to protest inhumane conditions, including 23-hour-a-day solitary confinement, from January 3-14, 2011. Bomani Shakur, Siddique Abdullah Hasan, Jason Robb and Namir Abdul Mateen were sentenced to death in 1994 after being framed for murder because of their leadership in a 1993 Lucasville prison uprising. A massive campaign supporting the hunger strike forced the administration to agree to all of the prisoners’ demands.

For more information:

Lucasville Uprising Freedom Network:
216-571-2518 (Sharon Danann) or
email: lucasvillefreedom@gmail.com

## Knitting for Lifers

board required of her: exhibiting true remorse for her crime, participating in self-help groups, and learning a vocation so she can be employable when released. After 20+ reviews, the Parole Board finally found Louise suitable for parole, but the Governor reversed the Board’s decision (as he does in 85% of the cases). I intervened for Louise and wrote a writ and also knit her a sweater. She was so overwhelmed she clung to the sweater, tears streaming down her face. Louise was released a little while ago and is now reunited with her grandchildren and all her loved ones.

Tanya is another lifer whose writ is in the courts and now has her sweater. She told me that every morning before she goes to her prison job she puts on her sweater for a few minutes and “sees” herself walking through those gates. She cried telling me about her morning ritual.

Then there is Dianne. Until recently she didn’t want a sweater. This is the heart-wrenching story for so many women. A few weeks ago, Dianne saw Julie receiving her sweater and she came to me saying, “OK, if you want you can knit me a sweater and I would really like a rich royal blue.” Now Dianne has her sweater and is cautious in her hope, but it is a beginning. In some ways that is what this is all about—new beginnings.
**Editorial**

*Justicia de la Libertad Condicional*

*The Fire Inside* ha abordado la problemática de las presioneras con condenas a cadena perpetua. Cada avance que nuestro movimiento ha logrado, ha enfrentado un retroceso por presión del movimiento por los ‘Derechos de las Víctimas’ y legisladores, quienes comparten en su agenda la pena máxima. En CCWP, lideamos con: apoyo para nuestras miembros durante su proceso de libertad condicional, estamos en campaña por cambios fundamentales del sistema; proveer una comunidad compasiva para las que logren salir, a pesar de todos los obstáculos. Y, tenemos presente y peleamos por aquellas que tienen sentencias a cadena perpetua sin derecho a la libertad condicional (LWOP).

De los 166,000 prisioneros en California, aproximadamente el 20% (33,200) tienen sentencias de cadena perpetua con posibilidad de obtener libertad condicional, aun así 20,000 prisioneros tienen un retardo ya de años en sus fechas de elegibilidad. En el 2009, sólo 193 personas de miles elegibles recibieron libertad condicional. Aun así, ha habido avances importantes en los últimos 10 años. Muchas personas que son elegibles, han obtenido fechas de liberación mediante la presentación de ordenes judicial en la corte, 29 sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica han sido liberadas por los esfuerzos del Habeas Project y Free Battered Women. En el caso de Sandra Lawrence, que marcó precedentes (en Re Lawrence), La Corte Suprema de California en el 2008 dictaminó que el gobernador debe considerar más el crimen inicial por sí solo al momento de evaluar la sustentabilidad de la libertad condicional y ver si no existen otros factores que indiquen un peligro en la actualidad. Pero en Enero 2011, la Corte Suprema de la U.S. tomó una decisión muy alarmante, donde declararon que los prisioneros no tienen derecho constitucional para la obtención de libertad condicional, una señal de que en el futuro podría ser más difícil poder conseguir ordenes judiciales.

Cuando prisioneros con sentencias a cadena perpetua comenzaron a obtener liberaciones por medio de las cortes, el movimiento de Derechos de las Víctimas lanzó una campaña en el 2009, que resultó en la aprobación de la Marsy’s Law. Ahora se puede imponer una negativa hasta por 15 años a la libertad condicional y los grupos de Derechos de las Víctimas pueden influenciar el resultado de las audiencias para la libertad condicional. La tendencia en California en los últimos 30 años, ha sido de encerrar a gente por tiempos más largos y cada vez más y más jóvenes. Tres faltas, mejor de gangas (bandas), y jóvenes juzgados como adultos son unos cuantos muestra de las duras leyes de sentencia, las cuales tienen un impacto particularmente en la comunidades de gente de color y pobre.

Aun en medio de la crisis presupuestaria, California sigue gastando un 10% de sus fondos en prisiones, mientras que efectúa gastos drásticos a educación, salud y programas de asistencia social para la gente pobre, ancianos y desabastecidos. La solución del Gobernador Brown es sacar 37,000 prisioneros de los complejos en condados con impuestos altos. Michigan ha reducido su población carcelaria por casi un 10% al soltar prisioneros en la fecha de su liberación y proveyendo un programa de re-incursión. La justa y más efectiva solución financiera, es la de liberar a los prisioneros que son elegibles!

El creciente concenso entre familias, miembros de la comunidad y grupos de apoyo, es la necesidad de hacer llegar un mensaje claro: La repetidas negaciones del estado de California al negar la liberación condicional a prisioneros con condenas cadena perpetua contribuye al sobrecupo de las prisiones, los males financieros del estado, y la injusticia de un sistema legal disfuncional. La misión de un grupo, la Alianza de Apoyo a la Vida, es “exponer el costo real, en términos monetarios y humanos, de la parcialidad de la política del consejo de liberatad condicional en cuanto a la negación de liberación en la vasta mayoría de los casos en los que prisioneras son elegibles…Nuestro estado ya no puede permitir en la venganza como política pública” (www.lifesupportalliance.org).

Muchos grupos participaron en una reunión estatal de CCWP en Octubre, 2010, incluyendo: Lifers to Be Free, A New Way of Life, FACTS, AKA Angels, ACWIP y Time for Change Foundation. Todos acordamos que se necesita construir un movimiento más grande, fuerte, unificado para retar al sistema de la libertad condicional. Esto es como en los días del cabildeo, llevar a ex-prisioneros y miembros de familia al Consejo de Libertad Condicional y reuniones legales y legislativas, retando al LWOP juvenil, ayudando a los prisioneros a prepararse para sus audiencias, apoyarlos cuando salgan, y poniéndole rostro a las estadísticas de los presos con sentencias a cadena perpetua. Con la fuerza y orientación de los presos que estan dentro y los ex-prisioneros que han luchado y ganado su liberación, confiamos que juntos podemos hacer cambios los años que se aproximan!

*Traducción por Alma Muñoz*
The Fire Inside has repeatedly addressed the issue of parole for life-term prisoners. We feel compelled to again dedicate this issue to the subject of parole. For every step forward that our movement has achieved, there has been a cruel push-back from the Victims’ Rights movement and legislators who share an agenda of maximum punishment. At CCWP, we grapple with how to: most effectively support our members through the parole process; campaign to fundamentally change the system; provide a caring community for those who manage to get out despite all of the obstacles. And, we remember and fight for those who are sentenced to life without parole (LWOP).

Of California’s 166,000 prisoners, approximately 20% (33,200) are sentenced to life with the possibility of parole, yet 20,000 prisoners are years past their parole eligibility date. In 2009, only 193 people of the thousands eligible were paroled. Still, there have been some important advances over the past 10 years. Many parole eligible prisoners have received release dates by filing writs in the courts, and 29 survivors of domestic violence have been released through the efforts of the Habeas Project and Free Battered Women. In Sandra Lawrence’s precedent-setting case (In Re Lawrence), the CA Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that the Governor must consider more than the original crime itself when evaluating parole suitability if there are no other factors indicating present danger. However, in January 2011, the US Supreme Court issued a very disturbing decision that said prisoners have no constitutional right to parole, a sign that it might be more difficult to win writs in the future.

With life-term prisoners beginning to win release through the courts, the Victims’ Rights movement launched a backlash campaign in 2009 resulting in the passage of Proposition 9/Marsy’s Law. Up to a 15 year parole denial can now be imposed and Victims’ Rights groups have more influence on the outcome of parole hearings. The trend in CA for the last 30 years has been locking people up for longer times at younger and younger ages. Three strikes, gang enhancements, and young people tried as adults are a few examples of harsh sentencing laws which particularly impact communities of color and the poor.

Even in the midst of a budget crisis, CA is still spending 10% of its general funds on prisons while it drastically cuts education, health and welfare programs for poor, elderly and disabled people. Governor Brown’s solution is to shift 37,000 prisoners to overtaxed county facilities. Michigan has reduced its prison population by almost 10% by freeing prisoners on their release date and providing a comprehensive re-entry program. The only just and financially sound solution is to release eligible prisoners!

There is a growing consensus among families, community members and advocacy groups that we need to get a clear message across: California’s repeated denials of parole for lifers contributes to the overcrowding of prisons, the financial woes of the state, and the injustice of a dysfunctional criminal legal system. The mission of one group, the Life Support Alliance, is “to expose the true costs, in monetary and human terms, of the Parole Board’s biased policy of parole denial for the vast majority of eligible life term prisoners...Our State can no longer afford vengeance as public policy.” (www.lifesupportalliance.org).

Other groups working for lifer parole participated in CCWP’s statewide gathering in October, 2010, including Lifers to Be Free, A New Way of Life, FACTS, AKA Angels, ACWIP and Time for Change Foundation. We all agreed that we need to build a bigger, stronger, unified movement to challenge the parole system. This means bringing former prisoners and family members to Parole Board en banc meetings and legislative lobbying days, challenging juvenile LWOP, helping prisoners prepare for their parole hearings, supporting prisoners when they get out, and putting a human face on the statistics about life term prisoners. With the strength and guidance of prisoners inside and former prisoners who have struggled and won release, we are confident that together we can make changes in the years ahead!
As a prisoner, I know all too well what it feels like to be expelled from society. I suppose many find this to be a reasonable form of punishment. In prison, remorse can grow easily. A prisoner is capable of blossoming internally and setting their minds free from captivity. A strong spirit can withstand the test of time and rise above the harsh conditions. Yet, many times the harsh conditions can tatter the soul and healing becomes nearly impossible.

Our wonderful “Land of the Free” creates laws intended to keep social order. But just as medical technology is tested before use, why have we neglected to test the psychological consequences of the punishments imposed if one breaks our laws? Our government should take heed of the signs that clearly indicate our society is failing. Has the focus of money and expansion distorted our sense of humanity? Are we not all connected, all on a path to find happiness and security? The details of our lives may differ, but the elements are the same. We have all experienced some form of loss, joy, pain and rejection. Nonetheless, we rob certain social groups of the ultimate motivator to live and survive: HOPE.

The new immigration laws set forth in Arizona, which rob hope and foster rejection, are preposterous. Shame on us for being proud of this wonderful country and yet we treat other human beings as if they are not human enough to live here. Officials are misusing their authority to pick and choose who they suspect to be an immigrant, which is nothing less than racial profiling.

My voice holds little weight in this country since I’m socially rejected myself, but as a law-abiding citizen I am embarrassed to claim America when we treat our fellow human beings as if they are less than. What are the psychological consequences of this law for those being rejected and mistreated? I’m convinced our government has lost sight of life’s true meaning. Instead, we have become consumed by the poison of superiority which is bound to destroy us all. No one person is better than another. We are all equal because we are all human.

---

**Not Human Enough** by Terah Lawyer, CCWF

---

On October 2, 2010, the Southern California Mediation Association awarded Suzy Mellen, a prisoner at Valley State Prison for Women, a “Peacemaker of the Year Award.” Mellen’s participation in the Peacemaker program led her to become a trainer to mediate, lead, and facilitate “peace circles,” while passing these skills on to others. The Peacemaker program teaches prisoners communication and listening skills which help them reduce conflict and violence within the prison. Mellen said, “The program helped me to be a good listener, which is needed in order to have peace. I learned how to reflect and listen to my emotions with others. Words used are so powerful. In certain situations, for example, I would say to someone: ‘I understand you’re angry. I hear what you are saying.’ It is important to acknowledge and honor the other person’s feelings, so they will feel heard. Then you can work things out.” Mellen’s passion and dedication are inspiring and meaningful. She is a revolutionary peacemaker.
Reflections on the CCWP Statewide Meeting  by Mary Campbell

My name is Mary Campbell. I am a member of CCWP and a former prisoner. I was Event Coordinator for a statewide meeting sponsored by CCWP in Los Angeles on October 9-10, 2010. The goals of the meeting were to bring together members of CCWP and Free Battered Women as one organization, and to talk about parole with many groups.

I was excited, nervous, and quite anxious about taking on this responsibility. This was an opportunity for our statewide organizers, staff, volunteers and members to meet and strategize about our various programs and how to better connect and strengthen the work we are all doing to advocate for prisoners. One issue addressed was our difficulty in staying connected with our Southern California members, especially our recently released women. It was also a chance to meet for the first time some newly released people and to see members we hadn’t seen since their release. We carpooled down there and back from San Francisco, and that also was a fun chance to chat and connect.

After a few months of planning, and with the ready, willing and capable help of the CCWP office in San Francisco, it all came together. And what a meeting it was! We had an attendance of over 60 people, with speakers from various organizations throughout the State. It was informative and very, very emotional. We cried, laughed, connected and reinforced each other’s strengths. We took lots of beautiful pictures, and had a great time. Both days were amazing, inspiring us to build stronger networks to share information, resources, but most importantly the people-to-people contact to help people get home after prison and contribute to our communities on the outside.

My goal for 2011 is to secure funding to make this an annual event. I will work hard at that, and all the love that was spread around that weekend will last for a long time. Thank you CCWP for hosting this event and having the faith in me to coordinate it.

To see more photos from the statewide meeting online, go to www.womenprisoners.org/news/000874.html and follow the links.
On a 15-to-life sentence, I did 20 years before I got out. I did pretty good when I first got out. When I applied for the things I needed, I got a lot of help from all of the agencies. Being around family was the hardest—I didn’t know if I wanted to be in touch with them. But now things are changing after a number of years.

When I was in prison I didn’t really have anybody on the outside to help me. I didn’t know what I was facing. I didn’t get to go to Pre-Release. None of us Lifers did in those days. I was really on my own. They gave me a book that was supposed to tell me how to do everything outside, but it really wasn’t helpful.

Not all release programs are suitable for you, so check it out very carefully. It’s really hard to get transferred from one program to another. The program I went to kept me locked in except for appointments. Even learning how to use the bus—they give you a book! I learned how to use the bus from a homeless woman, without getting any help from my program.

If you are taking meds for anything you have to be sure you will be allowed to have them in your program. That is one of the problems I had. I was lucky to have a good parole officer who got me out of a bad program. Then I went to a program where I learned how to set up a bank account and all the things to get along on the outside.

This is my sixth year out. I have had a great parole, but I was supposed to get off after 5 years and either the Governor or the Board denied me. I have another chance each year. Since I am a lifer, they could keep me on parole for life. When you have that “L” on you, you have few rights. And that is something we need to change.

When I came out of prison I was exuberant, full of hope, and ready to go for the gusto. But something happened after the first couple weeks. The Social Security office was so easy: I told them my number and I was given my new card with no hassle. What a different story at the DMV.

I gave them my old license number, but I was not in their system since there were no computers nearly three decades ago. Because I am transgendered, DMV demanded my old military and school records, my male birth certificate, and said they would have to make an ID in that name even though I had my Parole Fact Sheet with my photo, gender, date of birth, description, all the relevant facts for the time I had been in CIW. I had had my sex change in 1975 and went to CIW in 1976. I refused to get a ‘male’ ID, and a year of hell began.

I had been in a women’s prison almost 30 years, but it was a blow I was unprepared for, being denied my own identity. It took me almost a year to get those records. Thank God for the help of my older brother. When I finally got the records, DMV told me I had to go through the courts to get my name and sex “legally” changed. One year to the day from starting the process, I FINALLY EXISTED. I was Nikki Lee Diamond, female. Quite empowering to finally be legal!

The program I paroled to was not helpful for me. They didn’t do anything to get me prepared for life outside and it felt like a mini-prison. I was allowed to walk down to the village and all around, but I couldn’t go anywhere overnight without a pass. You were expected to do things and accomplish goals, but given NO HELP to figure out how to do any of this. After almost 30 years inside I had to go out and learn the bus system on my own, in a strange town, with only a transportation book!

continued on page 15
When I first got out the most important thing I needed was to feel safe. Everything is unpredictable outside, exactly the opposite of prison. I didn’t have anyone to help me, so without a job and money it was really difficult to find a place to live. My emotional and psychological states were not safe or stable, so I went back to drinking & drugs. Then I got arrested again. I needed to do something I had never been willing to do before—go into a treatment program. I finally did that to land myself a place to sleep & eat & be every day. It worked for me mostly because I was willing to live with the restrictions.

There had been no help from inside to prepare me for getting out. At the core of being successful outside is how you make decisions. I felt inadequate, stupid, less than other people when I first got out, and that made it harder to feel able to make any decisions. In general, all the info in the world does not prepare a person for the reality of getting out of prison. It might have been helpful if there had been someone coming inside who understood my experience and been able to share their success on parole.

I think the first 24 hours is crucial—somebody to pick us up at the gate, meet us at the bus, even if you don’t know them personally, that first human contact is so important, someone who values you as a person even when you don’t value yourself. We think we have a plan and think we have an idea of what it will be, hour by hour, minute by minute. We just get a Plan A together, but we are not prepared with Plan B, C, or D for when Plan A doesn’t work! An example is one time when I paroled I had Plan A, but they told me I had a hold in the county so they sent me to county lock up. The county released me at 3AM on a Friday with no money and no help. Somehow I managed to make it to the parole office at 6AM Monday.

I want to share information that I hope you’ll find enlightening. Many lifers going to the Parole Board don’t know what to expect, what they’ll be asked or what to bring. I’m serving a juvenile life sentence. I don’t go to Board, but I’m fighting to get my sentence reduced. In the meantime, I want to do everything that will help me if I do get the opportunity for release. Maybe by learning and sharing what I know, I’m helping it to become possible for myself?

Your C-File has all of your information, but what if something got lost that you know could help you? It’s very important that you keep copies of all paperwork. Make sure you include: future plans; psychological reports; counselor reports; employment history; laudatory chronos (‘good-girl’ chronos); support letters (with envelopes they came in—they will ask for them); 101s (work reports); vocation, education and self-help groups; volunteer work; plans for budget, relapse and residence; family ties; financial reports (if you had a job in prison or YA). The more information the better!

The Parole Board must consider your efforts to ‘rehabilitate’ yourself. Make sure that ANY certificates you get through correspondence are in your file with the envelope. You may be asked what you do in your free time. Some say, “I read books when not programming.” A Commissioner asks, “What was your favorite book and why?” or, “Where’s the book report on this book?” Whatever you do that is productive, document it! If you say you attend a 12-step group like AA, they may ask, “What is Step 4?” Be ready for anything they throw your way. Be prepared! List your goals, short and long-term. It may sound like a lot, but you’re fighting for your freedom. Why not be ready?

You may also be asked, “What brought you here?” They want to know that you have insight into why you’re in prison. They want to know that you take responsibility and recognize that your way of living brought you here, no matter what that looked like. It’s for you to search within yourself for that answer, but ask lawyers and people who understand the hearing process about how to present it. Every lifer needs to know that by helping others we help ourselves. Ask and don’t be shy! Share what you know!

(with Deirdre Wilson)
Enfoque Sobre la Libertad Condicional

Charla de Compañeras Sobre la Libertad Condicional

Lupe

Yo sola me enseñé a hablar inglés cuando llegué a la prisión. Durante el periodo de mi sentencia, no podía hacer preguntas, así que yo creía lo que decía el interprete. Yo quería tener la ventaja de saber inglés para la audiencia de mi libertad condicional, por que todo depende del usar las palabras correctas. Mucha gente de la Comunidad Latina son ingenuos respecto a la prisión. La gente no cuenta con el vocabulario en inglés para saber de cosas como la Marsy’s Law. Trato de educarlos. Dentro en prisión hay mucha pena, culpabilidad y verguenza. A menudo los que hablabamos inglés como segunda lengua sólo asentimos con la cabeza, pero no comprendemos las consecuencias. El idioma crea una gran barrera. Algunos lo toman como juego y no quieren hacer preguntas por orgullo. Yo me siento orgullosa de mis logros. En la prisión me he podido educar. Es lo que quieres hacer de ella.

Cuando vas a la dirección, más vale que cuentes con tu diploma de secundaria (GED). A mi me tomo 5 años poder sacarlo. Yo me enseñe en forma autodidacta y estudié yo sola. Tuve que hacer el examen dos veces por que se me acababa el tiempo, ya que el inglés era mi segunda lengua. Las clases de inglés fueron las primeras que recortaron.

El Consejo de Libertad Condicional se ha puesto más duro. La gente en mi situación debe tener un plan para la Libertad Condicional para sus países de origen también, aunque no vayan a ser deportados. Necesitamos apoyo para contactar a los Consulados de nuestros países de origen. Necesitamos apoyo si estamos siendo deportados. No sirve de mucho si tu plan es solo “Llamar cuando llegues hasta acá”. Necesitamos tener un plan específico para la libertad condicional.

Claudia

La gente aquí puede ser vengativa. Cuando tienes cosas en tus antecedentes, como ausencias en programación, eso se va al archivo C aunque no sea tu culpa. Eso afecta tus posibilidades de salir. Cuando algo así sucede por la crueldad de otros, eso significa que yo me veré mal ante el Consejo, aunque este esforzándose bastante para recuperarme. Cuando llegué al principio era muy joven. Acostumbraba a comportarme mal. Me llevó mucho tiempo que no lo hago y a pesar de eso aun tengo mala reputación por ello.

Jessica

El Consejo me lo ha negado ya 4 veces, en tres veces por dos años en cada vez y la última vez por 5 años. No tengo notas disciplinarias en mi archivo o condenas pasadas. Yo creo que la razón principal por la que se me ha negado, es por que no me pongo a sus pies y me inundo de verguenza y remordimiento. Ellos quieren que digas que eres culpable. Tengo un archivo C lleno de grandes cronos (clase de ciencias, manejo de ira, como ser madre- aunque mis hijos ya han crecido- y así sigue la lista). Cuento con un empleo para cuando salga, un plan detallado, un plan para los U.S. y también para mi país de origen. Ya llevo 15 años acá dentro y siento que ya pagué por el crimen que cometí por que ni siquiera lastimé a alguien directamente. Estoy sin esperanza.

D. C.

Si no le caes bien a los custodios, te provocan. A algunos custodios no quieren que la gente hable español, así que usan eso en tu contra. Recuerdo que un día alguien estaba hablando en español en el salón de clase y el maestro dijo “Esta es America, habla inglés”. Algunas personas la defendieron y todas recibieron un 115. También, cuando alguien hace licor o lo que sea en su celda, no puedes decir nada. Si no dices nada puede que solo te den un 115. Pero si dices algo, te dan un 115 y te dan una paliza. Cada 115 aumenta 180 días a tu sentencia.

Maria

Yo crecí en la Ciudad de México y tuve una vida difícil financieramente. Mis padres tenían educación y eran profesionales pero no encontraban trabajo. Nos venimos a los Estados Unidos, pero no podían conseguir trabajo en sus profesiones por la barrera del idioma.

Estoy presa por que tomé la justicia con mis propias manos. En mi cultura es más aceptado que en ésta. La prisión es trauma tras trauma. Yo no sabía de los recursos disponibles para ayudar a mujeres en casos de violencia doméstica. Cuando te dan la libertad condicional, ya sea que te manden al bote (de inmigración) o sales deportado. Estan regresando a gente a países violentos, países con historial de abusos de derechos humanos. La gente le teme a eso. No conocen las leyes. Cómo nos protegemos? Estamos tan vulnerables.

Mucho a cambiado allá afuera. La gente necesita una guía cuando se le da la libertad condicional. Yo enfrento muchos perjuicios: financieramente, soy mujer, hispana, criminal. Estar en prisión es como una deshabilidad, como tener un impedimento físico. Muchas de las organizaciones que ayudan gente en transición, tienen motivaciones religiosas. Yo no quiero eso.
**Focus on Parole**

**Compañeras Talk About Parole**

**Lupe**

I taught myself English when I came to prison. During my sentencing I wasn’t able to ask questions, so I would just go with what the interpreter said. I wanted to have the advantage of knowing English for my parole hearings, because it all depends on having the right words. Many people from the Latino Community are naïve about prison. Many times people don’t have the English vocabulary to know about things like Marsy’s law. I try to educate them. Being in prison, there is so much shame, guilt and embarrassment. Often we English as Second Language Speakers just agree, nod, but the reality is we don’t understand the consequences. Language creates a huge barrier. Some take it as a game—they don’t want to ask questions because they have their pride. I am proud of my accomplishments. Prison has been an education for me. It is what you make it.

When you go to the board, you better have your GED. It took me 5 years to get mine. I taught myself and studied on my own. I kept having to re-take exam because I would run out of time; being ESL it just took me longer. ESL classes were the first to get cut.

Parole Board has gotten tougher. People in my situation must now have parole plans in their country of origin too, even if they are not being deported. It didn’t used to be that way. We need support in connecting with the consuls of our home countries. We need to express the importance of support when people go to board when we are being deported. It doesn’t work if your plan is just “Call us when you get here.” We need to have specific parole plans.

**Claudia**

People can be vindictive in here. When you get things on your record like absences in programming, that goes into your c-file even if it’s not your fault. That affects your chances of getting out. When something like that happens because of the cruelty of others, it means that I look worse when I go before the board, even though I’m trying so hard to turn myself around. I first came in when she was young. I used to act out a lot. I haven’t done that for years but I still have a bad reputation for it.

**Jessica**

The board has denied me 4 times. Three times for two years each, and the last time for five years. I don’t have any disciplinary write-ups on my record or prior convictions. I think the main reason I have been denied is because of my crime, and because I don’t grovel at their feet and overflow with shame and remorse. They want you to say that you’re guilty. I have a C-file full of great Chronos (science class, anger management, parenting—even though my kids are grown—and on). I have a job lined up on the outside, family support and detailed parole plans laid out both in the US and my country of origin. I’ve been here for 15 years and feel that I have paid for my crime because I didn’t even directly hurt anyone. I just feel so hopeless.

**D. C.**

If officers don’t like you, they’ll provoke you. Some officers don’t want people to speak Spanish, so they’ll hold it against you. I remember someone was speaking Spanish in the classroom, and the teacher said, “This is America, you speak English.” Some other people stood up for her and they all got 115s. Also, when people make hooch or whatever in your cell, you can’t tell. If you don’t tell you might just get a 115. If you do tell, you get a 115 and you get your ass kicked. Every 115 adds 180 days (6 months) to one’s sentence.

**Maria**

I grew up in Mexico City and had a hard life financially. My parents were educated and were professionals but could not find work. We came to the United States but they could not find professional work because of the language barrier.

I am in prison because I took justice into my own hands. In my culture that is more acceptable than in this culture. Prison is more trauma after trauma. I didn’t know about resources to help women who experience domestic violence. When paroled, you either go to [an immigration] holding tank or you get deported. People are being released into violent countries with human rights abuses. People have such apprehensions. They don’t know the laws. How do we protect ourselves? We are so vulnerable.

A lot has changed outside. People need guidance when they are paroled. I face many detriments: financially; I am female; I am Hispanic; I’m a felon. Being in prison is a disability, a handicap. Many organizations that help people transition are motivated by religion. I don’t want that.
# State and National Parole Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Social Security</strong></th>
<th><strong>Action Committee For Women in Prison (ACWIP)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Find an office in your area and apply for your Social Security card.</td>
<td>Advocacy, education, individual parole campaigns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 1-800-772-1213</td>
<td><strong>Mail</strong>: 769 Northwestern Drive, Claremont, CA 91711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TTY</strong>: 1-800-325-0778</td>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 626-710-7543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong>: Mon-Fri. 7AM-7PM</td>
<td><strong>Email</strong>: <a href="mailto:info@acwip.net">info@acwip.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a></td>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.acwip.net/">www.acwip.net/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Calif. Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Recovery Survival Network</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get your drivers license or Calif. ID card.</td>
<td>A nonprofit providing clean and sober housing and re-entry programming in San Francisco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 1-800-777-0133</td>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 415-552-1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TTY</strong>: 1-800-368-4327</td>
<td><strong>Fax</strong>: 415-552-8444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong>: Mon-Fri 8AM-5PM</td>
<td><strong>Mail</strong>: PO Box 281344, San Francisco, CA. 94128-1344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://dmv.ca.gov">http://dmv.ca.gov</a></td>
<td><strong>Office</strong>: 3012 16th St, #201, San Francisco, CA 94103-5933</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>A New Way of Life Reentry Project</strong></th>
<th><strong>US Legal Forms</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A non-profit organization in South Central Los Angeles that helps women and girls with housing and reentry support; advocates for the human and civil rights of people in prison and post-conviction; builds leadership of formerly incarcerated women.</td>
<td>Filing Habeas Corpus &amp; other issues (fee for forms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mail</strong>: PO Box 875288, Los Angeles, CA 90087</td>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.uslegalforms.com/prodpages/CA-MC-275.htm">www.uslegalforms.com/prodpages/CA-MC-275.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 323-563-3575</td>
<td><strong>Contact</strong>: Marisa Gonzalez, Habeas Project Co-Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fax</strong>: 323-563-1889</td>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 415-255-7036 ext. 309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email</strong>: <a href="mailto:info@anewwayoflife.org">info@anewwayoflife.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Email</strong>: <a href="mailto:Marisa@prisonerswithchildren.org">Marisa@prisonerswithchildren.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.anewwayoflife.org/">www.anewwayoflife.org/</a></td>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.habeasproject.org/">www.habeasproject.org/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>A New Way of Life Reentry Project</strong></th>
<th><strong>USC Post-Conviction Justice Project</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All of Us or None</strong></td>
<td>Represents prisoners incarcerated at CIW serving life sentences for murder and survivors of domestic abuse whose crimes stemmed from abuse prior to the time when courts allowed expert testimony on battering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A national organization of formerly incarcerated people that fights for full restoration of our civil and human rights and against discrimination faced after release.</td>
<td>Please send a brief description of your case. <strong>Do not send original paperwork.</strong> You will receive a response in 4-8 weeks only if we can assist you. Unfortunately, we cannot respond to every request we receive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.allofusornone.org/chapter_contacts">www.allofusornone.org/chapter_contacts</a></td>
<td><strong>Mail</strong>: Post-Conviction Justice Project, USC Gould School of Law, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong>: Marisa Gonzalez, Habeas Project Co-Coordinator</td>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://weblaw.usc.edu/why/academics/clinics/pcjp/">http://weblaw.usc.edu/why/academics/clinics/pcjp/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AKA Angels</strong></th>
<th><strong>Skyway Trucking School</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supports people inside &amp; getting out.</td>
<td>Employment opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look for the AKA Angels group on Facebook.</td>
<td><strong>Mail</strong>: 17216 Lilac Street, Hesperia, CA 92345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southern CA</strong>—Contact Robin Keeble</td>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 1-877-675-9929 or 760-947-2779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern CA</strong>—Contact Margie</td>
<td><strong>Fax</strong>: 760-956-7201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mail</strong>: 5487 Twin Lakes Dr., Cypress, CA 90630</td>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.skywaytruckingschool.com">www.skywaytruckingschool.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 714-803-4717</td>
<td><strong>Contact</strong>: Robin Keeble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email</strong>: <a href="mailto:keeblenew@akaangel.com">keeblenew@akaangel.com</a></td>
<td><strong>Fax</strong>: 323-563-8427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern CA</strong>—Contact Margie</td>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 714-803-4717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email</strong>: <a href="mailto:info@anewwayoflife.org">info@anewwayoflife.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Fax</strong>: 323-563-1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.anewwayoflife.org/">www.anewwayoflife.org/</a></td>
<td><strong>Email</strong>: <a href="mailto:intothesolution_inc@comcast.net">intothesolution_inc@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Life Support Alliance</strong></th>
<th><strong>Thanks to Gelly Bean for her help!</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A nonprofit that educates legislators and the public, supports policy change and works for release of eligible lifers.</td>
<td><strong>Mail</strong>: PO Box 3103, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mail</strong>: PO Box 3103, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741</td>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 916-402-3750 (Vanessa) or 916-743-1654 (Gail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tel</strong>: 916-402-3750 (Vanessa) or 916-743-1654 (Gail)</td>
<td><strong>Email</strong>: <a href="mailto:lifesupportalliance@gmail.com">lifesupportalliance@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email</strong>: <a href="mailto:lifesupportalliance@gmail.com">lifesupportalliance@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.lifesupportalliance.org">www.lifesupportalliance.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web</strong>: <a href="http://www.lifesupportalliance.org">www.lifesupportalliance.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Thanks to Gelly Bean for her help!</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parole Beat

Precious Releases...

Norma Cumpian succeeded on appeal
Patricia Joellen Johnson
Molly Kilgore Martina Olea
Mary Ann Leigh Linda Rodriguez
Leeann Nabors Mary Shields
Sherrie Nelson

Pending Release

Romarilyn Baker is waiting for the Attorney General to show cause and for the court to rule against reversal.
Cynthia Feagin was found suitable for parole, and is awaiting the Governor’s ruling.

We invite our readers to send us information about your own release dates or denials.

Human Rights Lawyer Is Imprisoned

In 2002, human rights attorney Lynne Stewart was arrested and charged with aiding terrorism because she issued a press release on behalf of client Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, an Egyptian Muslim cleric. In October 2006, Lynne was first convicted and sentenced to 28 months. On July 15, 2010, she was re-sentenced at the age of 71 to ten years in prison because of pressure from the U.S. government.

Lynne’s conviction and 10 year sentence are the U.S. government’s attempt to silence radical defense lawyers, especially those who represent Arabs and Muslims.

You can write to Lynne at:
Lynne Stewart #53504-054
Unit 2N, FMC Carswell
P.O. Box 27137
Ft. Worth, TX 76127

Pursuit for my Pardon by Rose Parker aka Dr. Rose Parker-Sterling

In 1996, I officially submitted a request for a “Pardon” from then Gov. Pete Wilson. I sent a certified letter every two weeks and was also appealing my “initial” parole hearing (a three-year denial). I won my initial parole hearing (2 ½ years later). I continued writing Gov. Gray Davis, his wife, Sharon, and everybody I could think of, even President Bill Clinton.

I always believed I would be pardoned. They approved my parole March 2000. I was happy, but it wasn’t a pardon. I paroled 12.7.00 but appealed the five-year parole and continued petitioning the Governor for a pardon. With the help of supporters, we were able to submit thousands of signatures to the Governor’s office in 2002. In 2004, I received a letter from Gov. Schwarzenegger’s office requesting a “new application”.

As I continued to share of my dreams of a pardon, in 2010 I asked God why I didn’t get it, He said He didn’t change, I did. So I pressed on and drove to San Francisco on the Sept. 9th and Sacramento on the 10th. We rallied and prayed on the West Steps of the Capitol. I handed in another Formal Application (suggested in 2004).

I received a call on Sunday, January 2, 2011 from a reporter requesting an interview and found out that Gov. Schwarzenegger pardoned me on December 31st, his last day in office. PRAISE THE LORD. I’ve given a detailed account on purpose. Do not give up your fight. Your first fight is to be a better YOU, and continue to fight for what you believe, using God’s guidance.

It’s been nearly 25 years I fought to clear my name, so be encouraged. A special shout out to Dana Robinson, I love you and have not forgotten you. Special love to volunteers Pastor Richard Rugnao and Elder Edmond Mouton, who both passed to heaven in January 2011.

You can write to Rose at:
PO Box 756, Rialto, CA 92377
Breathing exercises bring wonderful benefits. They can reverse your stress response which, if chronically triggered and not reversed in a timely manner, can lead to chronic stress. This can really wreak havoc on your body. Breathing exercises can help to reverse the myriad problems caused by chronic stress including: headache; chronic fatigue; sleeping problems; concentration problems; anxiety and phobia; panic disorder; and depression.

If you find yourself experiencing the same stressors repeatedly, breathing exercises can help you respond in a more relaxed way. Proactive strategies that change your lifestyle to eliminate some of the stressors may also be a good idea. For example, changing conditions at your job to prevent work stress, or developing communication skills to combat relationship stress may be more effective than just using breathing exercises when you experience daily stress from these situations.

Conversely, if you’re having trouble sleeping, the featured exercise may prove very helpful.

Breathing Exercise

1. Close Your Eyes And Relax. Let your breathing get become slower and deeper.

2. Practice Stress Relief Breathing. Breathe from your diaphragm or belly instead of from your shoulders or chest. Don’t force it, but let your breathing become natural and relaxed.

3. Visualize. As you breathe in, imagine that ‘relaxation’ is coming into your body and flowing through your limbs, reaching every part of you. As you exhale, imagine that all the stress from your body is being exhaled. After a few minutes you should feel more full of peace, and the stress in your body should be reduced.

4. Or…As you breathe, imagine that your hands and feet are getting warmer. With practice, this can further reverse your stress and actually warm your extremities, relaxing your body in the process.

5. Another Idea. Imagine that with each breath your body is becoming more and more loose. With each exhalation, your limbs are a little more like spaghetti, your face a little more expressionless, your body a still pool of water.

6. Keep Breathing. Continue this exercise for 5 minutes or 20—whatever works for you. It can help you return to your activities with a renewed sense of strength and serenity.

Friendship, by Jackie Skeels
I went into a serious depression and was put on a medication that drove me into a prison within myself. It took the program staff several months to realize I wasn’t talking to anyone or eating, that I had lost about 30 pounds. I was ‘gone’ even though I was performing my required duties. There was one counselor who helped. She realized the medication was terrible and she allowed me to get off of it in August 2005. Then the director got me a job in Sept. 2005 that finally gave me a sense of myself and the feeling that I belonged. After all those years of taking care of myself, to be so strong and resourceful and get myself paroled (By God’s Grace) and then not know how to do anything for myself was really difficult.

On Jan. 6, 2006 I finally had my freedom, left the program and came up to the Central Valley with my former roommate. We speak up and down this state on behalf of those we left behind in prison. We have been fortunate to see so many paroled in the past 5 years.

Any lifer getting ready to get out needs a sense of humor, faith and an attitude of service to help you keep a sense of balance. Many more decisions are made out here in one day than we were allowed to make inside in a year! Just like it took time to adapt to incarceration, it will take time to adapt to freedom.

Read past issues of The Fire Inside online at www.womenprisoners.org/fire/

Robin Keeble
continued from page 8

morning, but I had a lot of scary moments between release and getting to the parole office!

One thing I think is predominant in women more than men, is we take on the identity of our crimes, integrate them into our psyches and our very beings whether it’s burglary, murder, whatever. We need to lose that ID before we get out and begin incorporating a sense of self-value as part of our communities. Some people get out and hide their past and don’t want to be part of AKA Angels or any group. That works maybe for some people, but other people are willing to stand up and not be ashamed and not hide, be able to show that we have done our time and now we are part of the community.

AKA Angels existed for about 2 years before I found them. It was more of a social network. Now AKA reaches inside to let people know we exist, setting up a network outside, doing things for the kids at Christmas. It started in LA and now we expanded statewide with somebody in Hayward organizing a network up north. We organize parole letters for lifers and also support for lifers who don’t have people outside so we get letters, packages and visits set up. We collaborate with other groups to collect toiletries to send inside. When we know someone is getting out we try to contact them to see what they need, and visit them when they get out so they know they have a support network. To get in touch with AKA Angels see the Parole Resources on page 12.

California Coalition for Women Prisoners invites and encourages all women and transgender people who have been or are on the inside to send us your writing, letters, art work, or poetry.

The next issue will be our 15th Anniversary Commemorative issue. Send us your thoughts, experiences, lessons you’d like to share. We will not use your name unless you check the box below.

☐ I want my name to appear in the newsletter to identify my work, see attached pieces

Name

Mail/return to
Come work with us!
Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday
of every month at 6pm
Write to us or call us (415) 255-7036 x4
www.womenprisoners.org
fax: (415) 552-3150
email: info@womenprisoners.org

Our Mission:
CCWP is a grassroots social justice organization, with members inside and outside prison, that challenges the institutional violence imposed on women, transgender people, and communities of color by the prison industrial complex (PIC). We see the struggle for racial and gender justice as central to dismantling the PIC and we prioritize the leadership of the people, families, and communities most impacted in building this movement.

Funded in part by The Women’s Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, Solidago, Rainbow Grocery, Ben & Jerry’s, Honig, Omnia, Van Loben Sels/RembeRock, The Funding Exchange, Folsom Street Events, and LEF.

Yes, I want to subscribe to *The Fire Inside*!

☐ Enclosed is $25 for a subscription, which supports free copies for all people in prisons, jails, and detention centers.

☐ I would like to be contacted about getting involved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>____________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone/email</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By check:
Please make checks payable to CCWP/LSPC

By credit card:
Card # ____________________________
Exp. date: _____________ 3-digit security code _____________
Name as it appears on the card: ____________________________
Billing Address (if different than mailing):

Please return in the included envelope