

Correctional Forum

SUMMER 2009

A PUBLICATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PRISON SOCIETY

Promoting a humane, just and constructive correctional system and a rational approach to criminal justice since 1787

TOWARD A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Considering the Needs of Children of Incarcerated Parents

By Dee Johnson

Women are going to prison at a faster rate than men. Believe it or not, they constitute the fastest growing sect of America's prison population today. And if that isn't startling enough, consider that 80 percent of incarcerated women are mothers and 75 percent of them have children under 18.

Today, about 2.5 million children in the United States have a parent who is serving time. And, to make matters worse, most parents are held in institutions 100 to 500 miles from their homes.

According to a report by the U. S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, a majority of mothers and fathers in state prisons indicate they have never had a visit with their child(ren) since being incarcerated.

"Policies have not yet been developed to address these issues and respond to the needs of families impacted by incarceration," said Ann Adalist-Estrin, director of the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated and an advocate of the issue for more than 30 years.

Serving a silent sentence

Consequently, children of the incarcerated serve a silent sentence of their own.

For instance, children who *can*

visit their incarcerated parents may suffer from the pains of separation or become traumatized by the conditions of prison. On the other hand, children who *can't* visit their parents



Ann Adalist-Estrin

while in prison may feel a sense of abandonment.

"Some children are left with foster caregivers who don't have an interest in getting them to a visit. Others are left with elderly grandparents who can't make the trip because they are physically unable to do so, or have no idea what to do with a 5-year-old when they take them into an institution," said Ceciley Bradford, Prison Society's Inmate Family Services program manager.

Nationwide focus groups

To help improve relationships between incarcerated parents and their children, Adalist-Estrin is travel-

ing throughout the country leading focus groups with four different factions: caregivers, advocates, children of the incarcerated, and incarcerated parents and formerly incarcerated parents.

She is seeking input that will help develop solid policy recommendations which will strengthen communication between children and their incarcerated parents and help them maintain relationships during incarceration.

"My hope in doing these focus groups is that we can hear the concerns from each of the four groups and find ways to talk about policy recommendations that would address the needs of these groups and connect the systems that serve each of those groups," Adalist-Estrin said.

The Pennsylvania Prison Society sponsored one of these focus groups, giving local participants the chance to share their concerns, tell their sto-

continued on page 14

IN THIS ISSUE

Executive Director's Column 2

Prison Society News 4
Staff, Retiree and Employee of Quarter

222nd Annual Meeting Highlights 5

The Punishment We Deserve 6-7

Legislative Update 8-9

222nd Annual Meeting Awards 10

Donor Listing 11-13

Children of Incarcerated Parents' Bill of Rights 15

THE PENNSYLVANIA PRISON SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen Greenlee, Esquire
President

David Richman, Esquire
Vice President

Duncan P. McCallum
Treasurer

William M. DiMascio
Secretary

William K. Stewart, Jr., Esquire
Solicitor

William G. Babcock, Esquire
Robert Cicchinelli, M.S.
J. Shane Creamer, Esquire
Honorable Isaac Garb
Rosemary L. Gido, Ph.D.

Theodore E. Glackman, M. Ed.
Bernard Granor, Esquire
William Griffin

Julia G. Hall, Ph.D.
Vicki W. Kramer, Ph.D.
David B. Kresge, Ph.D.

Angus R. Love, Esquire
Marcia Martinez-Helfman, JD,
MSW

Michael J. McCaney, Jr., Esquire
Acel Moore
Joanna Otero-Cruz
Joan Porter

Dianne E. Reed, Ph.D.
Grahame P. Richards, Jr.
Barbara Rittenhouse
Peggy Sims

Judith Stang, D.P.A.
Donald Vaughn

Stephen A. Whinston, Esquire
Roger Zepernick

Emeritus

Norman Johnston, Ph.D.
David W. Lauder

Correctional Forum

Editor: William DiMascio

Managing Editor: E. Dee Johnson

Correctional Forum is published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Prison Society, 245 N. Broad St., Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19107. For more information, contact Dee Johnson at 215-564-6005, ext. 112, or djohnson@prisonsociety.org.

Design and production: Steve Smith Design



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM DIMASCIO'S ANNUAL REPORT MAY 5, 2009

222ND ANNUAL MEETING

By William DiMascio

Imagine for a moment that you're 17-years-old again. Only this time, you are thrown in a solitary jail cell — on death row! How would you cope?

What if you were kept in solitary confinement for the next three years? Try to imagine what that would be like.

One of our award winners today had just such an experience. Later, she wrote about it with searing eloquence. In the book, *"Doing Life"*, Sharon Wiggins used these words:

"It's like what I perceive blindness to be: you kind of lose your balance; there's nothing that steadies you. When you lose contact with other people, it leaves you in a kind of darkness, a limbo... There's no visual light, but, after a time, your imagination creates light for you. We all need an outlet from frustration and loneliness, so we create our own sense of light through our hopes and dreams."

In the struggle to survive frustration and loneliness, Sharon's deepest sense of humanity — the hopes and dreams and aspirations that kept her connected even while she was isolated — eventually lit the way for her emotional endurance. It gave her that sense of balance she thought she had lost.

There is no greater value that we at the Prison Society share than that abiding sense of humanity.

The great declaration of this nation refers to these rights of humanness — to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — as "unalien-

able", taking precedence even over the Bill of Rights.

The dignity of humankind cannot be lost or stolen, cannot be ordered or legislated away. Nor can it be voluntarily surrendered by any individual no matter how grotesquely he or she behaves.

Some shrinking number of states still engage in the barbarity of capital punishment. And more constrict the freedom of movement of individuals who threaten the safety of others. Yet even in those darkest moments, the spark of life residing in the human heart retains the flame of hope.

Sharon Wiggins found it and it gave her a sense of balance. And thousands of other incarcerated men and women find it — some on their own, but many with the assistance of Prison Society volunteers and official visitors.

This is one way we see our values in action. It is one way we continue to affirm the relevance of our mission after 222 years of struggle.

During the past year we were confronted by serious financial challenges. At one point they seemed to threaten our very existence. With dedication to our mission, fueled by the knowledge that there are thousands of men and women like Sharon Wiggins who depend on us, we overcame the obstacles before us.

We endured ... as we have ... and as we must.

And, along the way, incidentally, 437 new members joined our ranks. We have other deeply held values as well. They include:

- Decent conditions of confinement and treatment of prisoners.
- Meaningful vocational and intellectual training opportunities to get inmates on a positive footing prior to their release.
- A sense of fairness in a criminal justice system that increasingly seems to give equitable treatment a back seat to legal process and political ambition.

Overcrowding has been a problem at state and county prisons for so long that it is becoming easily overlooked. But overcrowding is another major issue that tests our commitments.

Overcrowding is not about inconveniencing prisoners. It is about ratcheting up the levels of violence as tempers of both prisoners and corrections officers grow short in close quarters. It is about divvying up scarce resources into smaller portions. It is about the spread of contagions like the TB virus and MRSA. And, it is also about unsanitary conditions.

That leads me to a second example of the relevance of the Prison Society's values and actions.

At Coal Township — as at other facilities that have had to house more inmates than their capacity permitted — temporary dormitories have been established. Typically, these units are locked night and day and prisoners need to have guards let them out in order to get to restrooms, which do not exist inside the dorms.

We started getting reports that guards at Coal Township were refusing to open the doors in a timely fashion or were unavailable because of shift changes. As a result, inmates began relieving themselves in coffee cans and other containers. The stench in the dorm rose along with the number of complaints.

The ACLU heard the same reports and seemed to be threatening to sue.

We raised the issue with the local prison administrators and got unsatisfactory responses. We then took the matter to DOC headquarters and the day before Secretary Beard was to appear at our conveners' conference he personally visited Coal Township to inspect the facility and look into this situation.

At the conference we brought together an ACLU lawyer and the secretary. We learned that a guard was deliberately keeping the prisoners locked in so that they would file grievances because he personally disliked the temporary dorms.

The secretary ordered the officer reassigned and initiated plans to install restroom facilities inside all of the temporary housing units at all the prisons where they were being used. Additionally, he invited the ACLU lawyer to schedule an inspection visit at a time of her choosing.

Prisons have improved in many ways from the dungeons of past centuries. But it would be shortsighted to think that conditions of confinement are not problems that require constant vigilance.

In a democracy, when citizens give their government the power to take away the freedom of individuals, then those citizens have a responsibility for overseeing the conditions in which those individuals are being held.

In the Coal Township incident, the Prison Society played two important roles: first, we helped to get the problem resolved without litigation; and second, we opened a door for dialogue between the DOC and an important ally, the ACLU.

We perform tasks like these every day. Our staff does, to be sure, but our corps of volunteers does also in immeasurable instances in locations many of us have never heard of. (And by the way, that corps of volunteers is also growing; we added 21

new official visitors last year. We have a major project on the drawing board to enhance the training and performance of our official visitors, and to enlist those who are willing to help, with our policy reform efforts.)

And that brings me to the third element in this discussion of Prison Society values.

Trina Garnet was 13 when she was released from Allentown State Hospital where she had been treated for mental illness. She was sent to live with her older sister in Chester. In a matter of a few days, Trina had stopped taking her medications.

Then, while playing with a friend, she accidentally started a fire that burned down a house and killed two people.

Trina was convicted of murder and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. When the trial was over, Trina was sent to SCI Muncy where she was raped by a member of the prison staff. At 15, Trina delivered a baby boy, which was immediately taken from her and placed in foster care.

Trina is now 47 and suffering from multiple sclerosis. On a recent visit, she asked me for help in filing for commutation of her life sentence.

"How would you live on the outside?" I asked.

"I could get a job at McDonald's," she replied.

"Could you do that?" I said.

"Well, only for a time," she explained. *"I'm not able to stand up for very long now."*

During my years at the Prison Society, I have committed myself to helping lifers get a fair hearing for commutation. In the case of Trina Garnet, I do believe it was a travesty of the highest magnitude for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to hold a 13-year-old, mentally ill girl

continued on page 7

PRISON SOCIETY NEWS

NEW STAFF



John D. Apfelbaum

Volunteer

John is a businessman who volunteers his time to serve as an advisor

and mentor to reentry services program participants.

"Employment is the key to independence," he said. "I believe I can help clients with employment issues like how to present themselves for jobs, how to interview, and how to hold and advance in jobs once they have them."

John helps clients prepare resumes, teaches them interviewing skills, and instructs them in pitching their skill sets and story to potential employers.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in history, he owns one of the largest stamp auction companies in the world.

"I've worked with former offenders and know that many of them need only a little help getting started in order to lead productive and independent lives."

FAREWELL, MR. BOWTIE!

PRI Facilitator/Case Manager Retires

[W]e wish you many blessings.

Sayonara, goodbye;

*We'll never, ever forget our one and only
"Mr. Bowtie"!*

—Excerpt from Mr. Bowtie by Pamela Superville,
Reentry Services Program Manager

Charles Fleming, fondly referred to as Mr. Bowtie (because he always donned one), recently retired after six years of service at the Prison Society.

For the past two years, he served as Prisoner Reentry Initiative's (PRI) Criminal Attitude Program (CAP) facilitator and case manager, working with inmates at SCI Graterford. During his tenure, he also worked as life skills educator and reentry services case manager.

PRI, the first state program of its kind, starts working with inmates behind the walls and continues through their release. And CAP is designed "to get [inmates] to open up about their thinking and discuss their crimes," Charles said. "What you feed the mind, you feed the man."



Charles Fleming—Mr. Bowtie

"Mr. Fleming exemplifies the best work ethic and dedication to his job that his clients could possibly ask for," said Betty-Ann Izenman, program director. "He was tremendously loved by both the clients and the staff at the prison, and it has been a pleasure to know and work with him."

In retirement, Charles looks forward to embarking on some of the adventures he has had to put off while employed full-time. He eventually plans to relocate to Virginia.



Men in bowties and brims: In honor of his retirement, the Prison Society men don bowties and brims. (Left to Right: James Williams, Cameron Holmes, Charles Fleming, Anthony Singleton and William DiMascio)

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Darlene Little served as CAP case manager at SCI Muncy for the past two years. A Presbyterian minister, she has decided to follow a higher calling and accept a full-time pastoral position. We wish her Godspeed!

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Theresa Clark

Family Visitation
Coordinator

Since joining the Prison Society, Theresa has worked with the Family Transportation Services, Virtual Visitation and Parenting Skills Education programs.

She came to the organization three years ago as a work study stu-

dent and, today, oversees the Family Transportation Services program.

"Theresa is very involved in program logistics. To her, it's not just about running the bus program, it's about learning what to do to make the bus program run more efficiently," said Ceciley Bradford, Inmate Family Services program manager.

A senior at Temple University pursuing an undergraduate degree in

journalism, Theresa said her experience at the Prison Society has made her change her career focus.

"Before I started working here, I wanted to work for a big name magazine," she explained. "But now, I see myself in a position that allows me to continue my advocacy on behalf of prisoners, former offenders and their families."

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Four new board members were elected at the 222nd Annual Meeting:



Robert A. Cicchinelli
Co-Moderator, Prison Talk Online

Robert Cicchinelli co-moderates Prison Talk Online, a web community of more than 128,000 members, which discusses and addresses prisoner issues and concerns. The online forum was conceived in a prison cell, designed in a halfway house, and funded by donations from families of former offenders.

Bob holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology and a graduate degree in Counseling and Human Relations. He has worked with head trauma patients and in secondary school counseling, post-secondary, and community education. He also served as a volunteer firefighter and an EMT for 16 years.



Marcia Martinez-Helfman
President, Zia Business Partners, Inc.

With more than 20 years in human resources and employment law, Marcia Martinez-Helfman owns Zia Business Partners, Inc., a full-service human capital management consulting practice.

She has also served as faculty of the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute for Government and LaSalle University's Non-Profit Center, as well as president of the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania. She is currently a member of the Philadelphia Human Resource Planning Society and the Society for Human Resources Management.

Marcia received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and her Masters degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis.



Dianne E. Reed
Executive Director, CADE
Dianne Reed is executive director of CADE, a non-profit organization providing public school children with anti-drug and anti-violence prevention education. She has also served as budget director for the City of Philadelphia, president of the MidAtlantic Employers' Association, and executive director of the Pennsylvania Economy League.

Dianne holds a Masters of Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in English from Stanford University.

Dianne holds a Masters of Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in English from Stanford University.



Peggy Sims
Convener, Philadelphia Chapter Official Visitor

Peggy Sims has been involved as an Official Visitor of the Prison Society for more than a decade, and has *been awarded Official Visitor of the Year* for her outstanding service on behalf of prisoners.

Peggy is a staunch community activist and works with death row inmates at SCI Greene. She is also developing model programs for visitation. She currently serves as Convener of the Philadelphia Chapter of Official Visitors.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Photo: Rebecca Savellov

Dr. Ethan Nadelmann, founder and executive director of Drug Policy Alliance and Drug Policy Alliance Network, is

widely regarded as the most prominent proponent of drug policy reform in the United States.

Ethan Nadelmann, Ph.D.

At the 222nd Annual Meeting of The Pennsylvania Prison Society, Dr. Nadelmann explained the history of the drug war in America, the problems with its failed drug war, and the benefits of legalizing marijuana.

He likened the war on marijuana with prohibition and how ending prohibition increased government revenue and alcohol control. Legalizing marijuana could save billions in law enforcement costs and generate billions more in tax revenue, he said.

"We should have the right to put into our bodies whatever we want," Nadelmann says. Only when its use inflicts harm on others — like when reckless driving causes an accident — should you be held liable, he suggests.

He said he is pleased with the attention the issue is receiving lately: New Mexico has joined 13 states in legalizing medical marijuana, New Jersey is moving in that direction, Rep. Mark Cohen has introduced a similar bill in Pennsylvania, and Governor Schwarzenegger is encouraging discussion on the issue.

But, Nadelmann says, in order to create real change, marijuana users who live productive lives must come out of the closet, just as Harvey Milk did in the 1970s when standing up for gay rights.

To learn more, visit www.drugpolicy.org.

"Who are we? We are people who love drugs. But we are also people who hate drugs. But we know that drugs are here to stay and prohibition and the criminal justice system is not the way to deal with it."

THE PUNISHMENT WE DESERVE

How did the American penal system become abusive?

Cruel and Unusual: The Culture of Punishment in America Anne-Marie Cusac (Yale University Press)

By Noah Berlatsky

“Capital punishments are the natural offspring of monarchical governments,” Benjamin Rush wrote in 1792. Rush was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the father of American psychiatry, an abolitionist, and a prison reformer, and he’s one of the minor heroes of Anne-Marie Cusac’s *Cruel and Unusual: The Culture of Punishment in America*. Cusac, an assistant professor of communication at Roosevelt University, singles him out as representative of a stream of reformist thought common among the Founding Fathers and their peers.

For Rush, opposition to cruel punishment was based on both Christian faith and patriotism. He saw American republicanism as uniquely free, uniquely Christian, and therefore uniquely humane.

As Cusac points out, things haven’t worked out quite as Rush hoped.

America is far from the forefront of prison reform. We still practice capital punishment, and our rates of incarceration are by far the highest among Western nations. Moreover, since Abu Ghraib we’ve become notorious not for humaneness but for torture.

How exactly did this happen?

Cusac’s book suggests a couple of answers. In the first place, she notes, the reform movement didn’t necessarily lead to humanitarian improvements. On the contrary, the effort to promote humane rehabilitation often resulted in the replacement of

one form of torture with another. One of the most popular “reform” punishments, for example, was solitary confinement. In lieu of branding or whipping, the state would enforce isolation and silence, so that wrongdoers would have time and space to pray and contemplate their sins.



“An artist of sorts,” Berlatsky writes ill-tempered criticism for the *Comics Journal* and the *Chicago Reader*.

But solitary confinement in practice doesn’t rehabilitate prisoners: it drives them insane. Cusac doesn’t connect the dots explicitly, but it’s fairly clear that the cruel use of isolation in supermax prisons today can be seen not as a refutation of the reformist vision but as an ironic fulfillment of it.

Still, the reformers can’t be blamed for everything. Once the cruelty of solitary confinement became clear in the early 20th century, America, like much of Europe, abandoned the practice. For that matter, until relatively recently, the

U.S. imprisonment rate was in line with imprisonment rates in Europe. It was only in the 1980s and ‘90s that incarceration rates skyrocketed and solitary came back into vogue.

Cusac traces the resurgence of harsher measures to cultural shifts that started in the 70s. During that decade, she writes, Americans reacted against the culture wars of the 60s and the loss of the Vietnam War by becoming more pessimistic about the future and about human nature. Conservative religiosity enjoyed a revival. Movies like *The Exorcist* assumed the reality of evil. At the same time, prison reformers and researchers began to argue (often based on erroneous research, according to Cusac) that rehabilitation programs weren’t working. The reformers hoped, with charmingly utopian naivete, that once rehabilitation was discredited fewer people would be imprisoned.

Instead, portraying lawbreakers as permanently corrupt led politicians and citizens to call for longer, harsher prison sentences.

It’s difficult to establish cause and effect for cultural phenomena like this. For instance, Cusac notes that until the 1970s local TV news broadcasts didn’t spend much time discussing crime. Then, all of a sudden, management realized they could make a mint by promoting the latest murder or rape. So... did local TV news increase people’s fear of crime? Or did increased fear of crime make reporting on it more lucrative?

Cusac seems to lean toward the first explanation, but the second—or some sort of mutually reinforcing feedback loop—seems just as likely. Cusac can show that attitudes towards punishment changed, and she can point to a spectrum of phenomena linked to that change, but she can't establish, say, whether increased pessimism provoked the religious revival, or whether the religious revival primarily fed, or fed on, movies like *The Exorcist*.

Cusac ends up going with an amorphous bottom-up model: culture changed for a bunch of interrelated reasons, and therefore the political and legal realities of punishment changed. People came to feel that prisoners were evil and needed to suffer, and therefore long prison sentences and even torture—Cusac discusses multiple instances of prisoners dying after being placed in restraint chairs, for example—became normalized in U.S. prisons. The most chilling paragraph in *Cruel and Unusual* is the one in which Cusac explains how thoroughly acts she witnessed in U.S. jails prepared her for the Abu Ghraib revelations. “When I first saw the photo, taken at the Abu Ghraib prison, of a hooded and robed figure strung with electrical wiring,” she says, “I thought of the Sacramento, California, city jail.”

Cusac's argument that Abu Ghraib was merely an extension of the U.S. prison system is depressingly persuasive. She points out that several of the people involved in the torture were former corrections personnel who'd also been implicated in incidents of prison abuse. At the same time, though, Abu Ghraib suggests the limitations of her bottom-up perspective. The abuses there occurred in a climate in which the Bush administration was actively advocating torture techniques. If Al

Gore had won a handful more votes, or Dick Cheney had suffered a debilitating heart attack before becoming vice president, it seems likely that Abu Ghraib wouldn't have happened.

(Not that the solution to prison abuse is necessarily more liberals in power—Cusac argues that Democratic antidrug crusaders like Jesse Jackson are plenty culpable for our current mess.)

Obviously, the Bush administration officials' personal attitudes towards torture and the death penalty were influenced by the rise of religious conservatism in society at large. But influence flowed the other way, as well. Focused on culture at the grassroots level, Cusac underestimates the extent to which politics at the top have affected the debate. Would we have the prison system we do if Republicans—and, for that matter, many Democrats—hadn't decided to use crime as a wedge issue for so many years? Would so many conservatives have so eagerly defended torture if the Bush administration hadn't made that the default Republican position?

America's fascination with control, punishment, and force is partially a reflection of our leaders' fascinations. It hardly seems surprising that the more we act as the world's policeman, the more we behave internally like a police state. For Benjamin Rush, remember, it was monarchical government that led to capital punishments, not the other way around. If we want a less punitive culture, the simplest way to get it might be to put less punitive people in power.

Let's hope we already have. ■■■

This piece originally appeared in the Chicago Reader on May 7, 2009. Reprinted with permission. © Noah Berlatsky

Annual Report... continued from page 3

culpable of a crime worthy of a sentence of life without parole.

It is a sin against humanity to treat children so young, so incredibly harshly. Yet we do it in Pennsylvania more than they do it anywhere else in the world, which puts this state near the epicenter of injustice.

And, if that description sounds extreme, consider this: on a per capita basis, Pennsylvania uses the two harshest sentences available more than any of the states with the largest populations. One out of every 2,574 Pennsylvanians is on death row or serving life without parole.

And, in the group serving life without parole, we have more who were convicted while they were still juveniles than any jurisdiction in the world.

And despite all the proclamations about wanting to make our communities safer, we seem to take a crisis-to-crisis approach that lacks a clear, systemic strategy for improving public safety.

Still, we at the Prison Society refuse to allow frustration to dampen our commitment.

Fifty years ago, William Faulkner won the Nobel Prize for literature. He called on writers to stick with the “old verities and truths of the heart” lest they focus on defeats in which nothing of value is lost, and of victories without hope or compassion.

The values of the Prison Society *are* the old verities and truths of the heart. They are about fairness, not politics. They are about justice, with hope *and* compassion.

These are the elements that keep us balanced. These are the ideals that have helped us endure all these years. And these are the principles that will guide us in the decades ahead. ■■■

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Chair

Thomas R. Caltagirone
(D-Berks)

Secretary

Deberah Kula
(D-Fayette & Westmoreland)

Minority Chair

Ron Marisco
(R-Dauphin)

Courts Subcommittee Chair

Don Walko
(D-Allegheny)

Crime and Corrections Subcommittee Chair

John E. Pallone
(D-Armstrong & Westmoreland)

Family Law Subcommittee Chair

Kathy Manderino
(D-Philadelphia)

Members

- Joseph F. Brennan (D-Lehigh & Northampton)
- James E. Casorio, Jr. (D-Westmoreland)
- Paul J. Drucker (D-Chester & Montgomery)
- Bryan R. Lentz (D-Delaware)
- Joseph A. Petrarca (D-Armstrong & Westmoreland)
- Josh Shapiro (D-Montgomery)
- Greg Vitali (D-Delaware)
- Chelsa Wagner (D-Allegheny)
- Ronald G. Waters (D-Philadelphia & Delaware)
- Jesse White (D-Allegheny, Beaver, Washington)

- Tom C. Creighton (R-Lancaster)
- Will Gabig (R-Cumberland)
- Glen R. Grell (R-Cumberland)
- Kate Harper (R-Montgomery)
- Timothy Krieger (R-Westmoreland)
- Bernie O'Neill (R-Bucks)
- Todd Rock (R-Franklin)
- Richard R. Stevenson (R-Butler & Mercer)
- Katie True (R-Lancaster)
- Mike Vereb (R-Montgomery)

LEGISLATIVE

**BILL NO.
PRINTER NO.**

DESCRIPTION

**HR 203
PN 1321**

Provides for a resolution to study the needs of children of incarcerated parents. *(See SR 52)*

**HB 1393
PN 1714**

Allows for medical use of marijuana.

**HB 1414
PN 1736**

Establishes the 2009 Pennsylvania Criminal Justice Commission as a sub-commission of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to review the criminal justice system, propose reforms, restructure drug policy and more.

**HB 1567
PN 2244**

Requires mandatory sentencing with post-prison intensive restriction for repeat violent offenders; further provides for adoption of guidelines for sentencing, re-sentencing, parole, certain recommitment ranges and sentences for second and subsequent offenses. Includes some juvenile offense history.

**SR 52
PN 706**

Provides for a resolution to study the needs of children of incarcerated parents. *(See HR 203)*

**SB 383
PN 381**

Provides for problem solving courts for treatment; may have a coordinator statewide; may establish an advisory committee.

**SB 650
PN 705**

Provides employment incentive payments to employers that hire certain former prisoners.

**SB 827
PN 964**

Provides for global positioning technology for certain convicted and paroled sex offenders. Costs paid by parolee unless undue hardship.

HIGHLIGHTS

LEAD SPONSOR	ACTION STATUS	PRISON SOCIETY POSITION
Rep. Cherelle Parker (D-Philadelphia County)	Passed Committee on Children and Youth 6/2/09 (26-0). Passed House and adopted 6/3/09 (192-0).	Support
Rep. Mark Cohen (D-Philadelphia County)	Referred to Health and Human Services Committee 4/30/09.	Support
Rep. Kenyatta Johnson (D-Philadelphia County)	Referred to House Judiciary Committee 5/4/09.	Support
Rep. Brendon Boyle (D-Philadelphia County)	Passed Judiciary Committee 6/23/09 (16-6) as amended. In Rules Committee 6/23/09.	Oppose
Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R-Bucks/Montgomery Counties)	Passed Senate Judiciary Committee 6/2/09, (14-0). Passed Senate 6/8/09 by voice vote and sent to Joint State Government Commission.	Support
Sen. Jane Orie (R-Allegheny/ Butler Counties)	Passed Judiciary Committee 3/10/09. Passed Appropriations Committee 5/5/09. Passed Senate 6/3/09 (49-0). In House Judiciary Committee 6/5/09.	Support
Sen. Daylin Leach (D-Delaware/ Montgomery Counties)	Referred to Finance Committee 3/19/09.	Support
Sen. Jane Orie (R-Allegheny/Butler Counties)	Referred to Judiciary Committee 5/1/09.	Oppose

SENATE

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Chair

Stewart J. Greenleaf
(R-Bucks & Montgomery)

Vice Chair

Mary Jo White
(R-Butler, Clarion, Erie, Forest, Venango, Warren)

Ex-Officio

Joseph B. Scarnati, III
(R-Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Tioga)

Minority Chair

Daylin Leach (D-Delaware & Montgomery)

Majority Members

Patrick M. Browne
(R-Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton)

Jane M. Earll
(R-Erie)

John R. Gordner
(R-Cumberland, Dauphin, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder)

Jane Clare Orie
(R-Allegheny & Butler)

Jeffrey E. Piccola
(R-Dauphin & York)

John C. Rafferty, Jr.
(R-Berks, Chester, Montgomery)

Minority Members

Lisa M. Boscola
(D-Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton)

Jay Costa
(D-Allegheny)

Wayne D. Fontana
(D-Allegheny)

Michael J. Stack
(D-Philadelphia)

222nd Annual Meeting

2009 AWARDS



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Marsha Levick, Esq.

Deputy Director and Chief Counsel, Juvenile Law Center

Marsha Levick was primarily responsible for bringing to light the injustices occurring within the Luzerne County juvenile system wherein thousands of juveniles were being unjustly convicted and incarcerated. For her efforts, she received The Pennsylvania Prison Society's 2009 Meritorious Service Award.

Catherine McVey

Chair, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole

Catherine McVey received The Pennsylvania Prison Society's 2009 Meritorious Service Award in recognition of her leadership as chair of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. Since she has taken charge, she has worked diligently with organizations like the Prison Society, and a host of others, to improve the system and make parole a more positive and effective system that enhances public safety while helping people rebuild their lives.

PRISONER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT

Sharon Wiggins

SCI Muncy

In 1968, Sharon Wiggins was incarcerated at only 17 years old. She was awarded the Prisoner of the Year because during the past three decades of incarceration she has spent rising above the discouraging prison environment and making life better and brighter for herself and for those around her.

— **Sharon Wiggins** (from a 1996 essay in *Doing Life* by Howard Zehr)

"I had to grow up in prison. So it took about 10 years to get in touch with myself and my surroundings, with the painful feelings that I had about being incarcerated, with the realization that the mistake I made is irreversible. It is not like you can say you are sorry and it will go away. So you have to come to some resolve about how you want to deal with that... You have to experiment and find ways that will not really compensate, but will atone for the past... I do believe good can come of a life in prison. Once you've had a chance to evaluate the things that brought you to prison and have come to terms with them, you can get something positive from this experience."



Top: Marsha Levick

Bottom: Cathy McVey shakes hands with Prison Society Board president Ellen Greenlee as board member and former deputy superintendent Donald Vaughn looks on.

Photo credit: Rebecca Savedow

Thank You

Thank you to the following individuals or organizations who, through membership and financial contributions in fiscal year 2009 (June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009), demonstrated their belief in the mission of the Prison Society.

1787 SOCIETY

\$1,000 and above

Caroline Alexander Buck Foundation
Campbell-Oxholm Foundation
Samuel S. Fels Foundation
The Female Association
Bella & Benjamin Garb Foundation
Bernard & Marie Granor
Ellen & James Greenlee
Thomas Skelton
Harrison Foundation
James S. Herr Foundation
Independence Foundation
Norman Johnston
Paul E. Kelly Foundation
H. F. Lenfest
Michael McCaney McLean
Contributionship
Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trusts
Stanley Merves
Thomas Newman
The Philadelphia Foundation
Joan Porter
George W. Rentschler Foundation
David Richman
Roberts Charitable Foundation
Thomas Rogers
William Stewart, Jr.
Craig Stock & Catherine Wise
United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Valentine Foundation
Wachovia Foundation
Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial
Stan Stojkovic
Joanne & Robert Wise

FOUNDERS

\$500 – \$999

James & Judy Allison
Russell Bishop

Michael Buckley
Eric Carlisle
GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
William Griffin
H. Mark Keintz
Vicki Kramer
Constance Krehbiel
David & Peggy Lauder
Cece Niombella
Resources for Human Development
Grahame Richards
Barbara Rittenhouse
Ann Satterthwaite
SCI Graterford LIFERS, Inc.
SCI Greene Committee of Enrichment
Sultan Jihad Ahmad Community Foundation
Samuel Tabas Family Foundation
Donald Vaughn

SPONSORS

\$250 – \$499

William Babcock
Jessica Brown
Marilyn Coates-Bradley
Shane Creamer
Dorothea DiGiovanni
William DiMascio
Jeffrey Draine
Eastern State Penitentiary
Alexandra & John Estey
Lois Fischbeck
G. Christopher Fogwell, Sr.
Isaac Garb
Rosemary Gido
Theodore Glackman
Rosalie Goldberg
William Goldstein
George Gorso
Marie Gottschalk
Sarah Grace
Patricia Hagarty
Beth Hanssens
Marian Houston
LACEO, SCI Graterford
Seymour Levin
Alison Lewis
Craig & Linda Long
Charles Mather, III

Carole & Duncan McCallum
Acel Moore
NAACP, SCI Graterford
Helen Oerkvitz
Helen Parham
Dennis Pollard
Cynthia Schein
SCI Retreat Inmate Organization
Bob & Tami Wise

PATRONS

\$101 – \$249

Ebonee Allen
John Apfelbaum
Alan Appel
Jim Barrett
Joan Behr
Tosha Berry
Stephen Billings
James Bond
Larry Bowersox
William Brainerd
William Coneghen, Jr.
Robert Connamacher
Sharon Dietrich
John & Rosalee Dilulio
Eleanor Ferguson
Marianne Fisher-Giorlando
Mary Gergen
Cindy Grill
Betty Grudin
Robert Gutowski
Julia Hall
Sherrill Hall
Virginia Hammond
Raymond Harper
Gladys Hart
David Hewitt
Renee Hughes
Fran & Howard Kellogg
Robert Koenig
David Kresge
Mary Ellen Krober
Angus Love
Bruce Melgary
West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
Marilyn O'Connell
Charles Penniman, Jr.
Jessica Raymond
Josephine Rhyder
Angela Richardson
Gustave Scheerbaum

Patricia Schulder
Joanne & Michael Schwab
Ann Schwartzman
Deborah Sieger
James O. Smith
Judith Stang
Ivan & Nancy Stiles
Linda Stirling-Godfrey
Charles Strickler, Jr.
Joseph Sullivan
Pamela Superville
Harry Toland
Vietnam Veterans of America
Lorle Wolfson
George & Vivian Yoder
James & Roma Yorgey
Roger Zepernick

FRIENDS OF THE SOCIETY

Up to \$100

Luther Abney
David Ackerman
Geoffrey Adams
Shaun Adams
John Adlesic
Walid Abdul Akbar
Anita Albers
Jimmy Alicea
Miquel Alicea
Haleema Alkhatib
Melissa Allan
Walter Allen
Andrew Alston
Ronald Alston
Miguel Alvarez
Jonathan Ambrose
JuaVonnice Amolieo Diashanel
Mark Anastos
Joan W. Anderson
Dennis Andrascik
Kim Angle
Marilyn Ankrom
Eugene Antley
Janet Armour
Gert Aron
Walter Arrington
Melissa Ashton
Bobby Askew
Cleo Askew
Richard Askew
Barbara Auerbach
Richard Augustine

Weldon Ayers
Carl & Lucretia Back
Irene Baird
Hyeonna Bak
Brenda Baker
Donald Balya
Marsha & Robert Banks, Jr.
Merschelle Banks
Martin Baranow
Janis Barksdale
Barbara Barlow
Samuel Barlow
Thomas Barndt
Acey Barnes
Darryl Barrett
Kevin Barrett
Robert Barrett
David Bartling
Chakira Baston
Heather Batson
Theresa Battles
Mark Baughman
A. Baumhammers
Joseph Baynes
Lorraine Beaton
Robert Beatty
Richard Beaty
Vladimir Beauflis
Clare Marie Beichner
Kevin Beiter
Darryl Bell
Debbie Bell
Otha Bell
Daniel Bender
John Benedetto, Jr.
Peter Benekos
Eleanor Benner
Elizabeth Bennett
Scott Bennett
Bennett Benson
Nanette Bergman
John Betz
Carl Biggan
Donald Billman
Brad Bingaman
Annette Bixler
Rufus Black
Nancy Blaha
Herbert Blakeney
Stephen Blakeslee
Donald Blasoli
Brandon Bloss
Jesse Blough
Hubert Blount
Daniel Boldorff
Sarah Bones
Cheryl Mae Bonneau
Celeste Boone
Matthew Bosack
Kendra Bowen
James Bowers
Arnold Bowling
Michele Box
Charles Boyd
Francis Boyd
Nancy & Richard Boyd
Barry Boyle
Ceciley Bradford
Dan Bradley
Michael Bradley
Margaret Brady
Matthew Brady
Tyrone Brand
Mark Breakiron
Danielle Breaux
Ashby Breneman

Ruby Breneman
Ian Brenner
Sarah Bridgins
Paul Brierly
Derel Britton
Dion Britton
Jerome Britton
Nicholas Brocato
Bruce Brown
David Brown
Edward Brown
Herbert Brown
Julius Brown
Larita Brown
Ruby Brown
Terry Brown
Thomas Brown
Norman Bryant
Joanna Buck
Roger Buehl
Whinston Buentello
Robert Buli
Mike Bundy
Janet Burd
Deanne Burk
Raque Burkeholder
George Burkhardt
Harry Burkhardt
Mary Burkhardt
Gary Lee Burkholder
June Burris
Dante Burton
Gary Burton
Sam Byrd, Jr.
Wali Byrd

COMPASSION.

Everyday the Prison Society opens its doors, justice meets compassion.

Carlos Caguas
Troy Calhoun
Michael Campagna
Jill Canary
Eduardo Canepa
Therine Cannady
Robert Caporello
Delores Maye Carbaugh
David Carbello
William Carini
Joel Carl
Edwin Carlson
Joan Carlson
Allen Carr
Ben Carter
Lisa Carter
Robin Casarjian
Alexander Casey
Gail Cash
Cheryl Casper
Janis Casterline
Ernest Caufield
Rachel Chalot
Ed Chaparro
Robert Chase
Anthony Chavez
Robert Cherry
Gail Chester
Laura Chisholm
Mary Christensen
Robert Cicchinelli

Jesus Cintora
 Carla Clanagan
 Harvey Clanton
 Kyra Clardy
 Mearl Clark
 Todd Clear
 Eugene Cleaver
 David Cleaves
 Karl Clomburg
 Yvonne Cloud
 Gregory Clowney
 Beverly Cohen
 Daniel Cole
 George Coleman
 Larry Coleman
 Trayanna Coleman
 Ronald Collazo
 Amelia Collins
 Harley Collins
 Ricardo Collins
 Virginia Collins
 Adam Colon
 Raul Colon
 Keith Connors
 Carl Conser
 Albert Conway
 Joseph Conway
 Daniel Cook
 Lawrence Cook, Jr.
 Michael Cooke
 John Cooper
 Ronald Cordell
 Luis Correa
 Roger Coulter
 Kevin Courtright
 Nathan Cox
 Peter Cox
 James Cramer
 Peyton Craighill
 James Crawford
 Alice Crimmins
 Luis Correa
 Roger Coulter
 Kevin Courtright
 Nathan Cox
 Peter Cox
 James Cramer
 Peyton Craighill
 James Crawford
 Alice Crimmins
 Tim Crimmins, Jr.
 Jefferson Crosby
 James Cruz
 Lawrence Cseripko
 Ernest Culbreath
 Jim Cunningham
 Wonceil Currin
 Anthony D'Ginto
 Marion Damick
 Jan Daniel
 Barbara Dantley
 Craig Datesman
 Clarence Davis
 Evan Davis
 Guy Davis
 Ivory Davis
 Jean P. Davis
 Norma Davis
 Onaja Davis
 Scott Davis
 Kenneth Deaver
 Tammy DeFazio
 David Demarest
 James DePaul
 Marissa DePiso
 Martin Devers
 Robert Diamond
 Emma DiBona
 Charles Dick, Jr.
 Judith Diehl
 Nathan Diehl
 Shirley Dinger
 Ann Dixon
 Linh Doan
 Timothy Dockery
 Yvonne Dodson

Joseph Dole
 Ellen Doman
 Phyllis Donahue
 Paul Donovan
 Terry Dorman
 Barbara Dowdall
 Kevin Brian Dowling
 Marc Draper
 Michael Drawbaugh
 Nathan Druck
 Christopher Duckett
 Margaret Dudley
 Tiffany Duncan
 Raffi Dunmore
 Dawn Durain
 Thomas Duran
 Gary Durfee
 Hedwig Durnbaugh
 Robert Ealer
 Helen Early
 Charles Ebersole
 Raymond Ebo
 Valerie Ebo
 Patricia Edner
 David Eller
 Steve Elmarzouky
 Donald Ely
 Brenda Emerick
 Corey Evans
 Joseph Evans
 Rashawn Evans
 Sheila Evans
 Gordon Everett
 Nancy & Walter Everett
 Allan Ewing
 Joseph Famararo
 Thomas Farrell
 Jeanne Farren
 Haywood Fennell
 Sharon Fenstermacher
 William Fenstermacher
 Happy & Richard Fernandez
 Catherine Finucane
 Elizabeth Finucane
 James Fink
 Charlotte Fitch
 Teal Fitzpatrick
 Shirley Fix
 Charles Fleming
 William Folks
 Christopher Ford
 Nancy Forgang
 Tyler Forrest
 Gina Fox
 Donald Fox
 Jasper Frank
 Steven Frederick
 Abraham Freedman
 Erica Freeman
 William Fried
 Todd Friedman
 Thomas Friel
 Ernest Fuller
 Gerald Funk
 Challan Galleher
 Brandynne Gardner
 Louis Garzarelli
 Rodney Gateward
 Ellen Geiger
 Larry George
 Yusef George
 Paul Gere
 Nancy Germann
 Debra Germany
 Morrison
 Bill & Jean Gernert

Peter Gibson
 James Gillespie
 Clarence Gilmore
 George Gilmore
 George Gipson
 Daryl Glasco
 Anne Glass
 Paul Glassman
 Dorothy Gold
 Charles Goldblum
 Frances Goldin
 Joseph Gonzales
 Roberto G. Perez
 Elieselle Gonzalez
 William Good
 Brian Gordon
 Harold Gordon
 Steven Gordon
 Carole Gore
 Freda Gowling
 Phyllis Grady
 Marshal & Tamar Granor
 Brooke Grant
 David Grant
 Elizabeth Grant
 John Grant
 Kenneth Graupner
 Robert Grave
 Sherman Gravitt
 Darryl Gray
 Frank Grazulis
 Marie Grazulis
 Laurel Grbach
 Brandon Green
 Thomas Greene
 Jamie Lynn Greger
 Dirk Greineder
 Stephen Gresh
 Jean & Robert Griffith
 Douglas Grill
 Gerald Grimaud
 LaTosha Gross
 Percy Gulley
 Ann Gundersheimer
 Norman Gundrum, Jr.
 Ralph Gutshall
 Gordon Haas
 Luther Hadix
 Dannielle Hadley
 Craig Hairston
 Larry Hall
 Desmond Hammond
 Grace Han
 Finy Hansen
 Nadim Haque
 Omar Hardy
 John Hargreaves
 Samuel Harper
 Cecelia Harris
 Adele & Oscar Harris
 William Harris
 Vincent Hatton
 Larry Hayman
 Michael Heberling
 Joseph Heckel
 Jared Henkel
 Harold Herrschatt
 William Hess
 Michele Hetzel
 Paul Hewston
 Justin Hickox
 Barbara Higgins
 David Hilt
 Kimberly Hoag
 Merle Hoag
 Priscilla Hodecker
 Terry Hodecker

Tiarke Hodges
 Jack Hoffer
 Michael Hoffman
 Donald Hofler
 Rodney Hojnowski
 Timothy Holler
 Lynne Hollinsworth
 Dianna & Doug Hollis
 Roy Holloway
 Maura Holt
 Holy Name Society SCI Graterford
 Lawrence Holz
 Michael Hooper
 Andrew Hoover
 Terrence Hoover
 Thomas Hoppel
 Cornelius Horan, Jr.
 Dennis Horton
 Antonio Howard
 David Howell
 Jennifer Huck
 Martin Hudson
 Anthony Hughes
 Robert Hughes

HOPE.
 Everyday the
 Prison Society
 opens its doors,
 compassion
 kindles hope.

Ronald Hughes
 Anne Humes
 David & Gail Humes
 Roger Hummel
 James Huntley
 Christopher Hushelpeck
 Darnell Hutchinson
 Ahmad Hylick
 Hermine Hylick
 Shariff Ingram
 Tom Innes
 Institutional Law Project
 Richard Iovanna
 Lenora & Thomas Irwin
 Betty-Ann Izenman
 Thelma Jacks
 Chance Jackson
 Duane Jackson
 Kenneth Jackson
 Ramon Jackson
 William Jackson
 Stephen Jacobsen
 Tyrone James
 Frederick Jefferson
 Gregory Jefferson
 William Jefferson
 Guy Jeffries
 Freddie Jenkins
 John Jobson
 Cedric Johnson
 Darren Johnson
 Dee Johnson
 Ivy Johnson
 Jane Johnson
 Jason Johnson
 Lonnie Johnson
 Lorenzo Johnson
 Milton Johnson
 Percy Johnson
 Aaron Jones
 Brad Jones

Thomas Jones, III
 Levenworth Jones
 Lynard Jones
 Rene Jones
 Thomas Jones
 Valerie Jones
 Frank Jordan
 Mark Jordan
 William Jordan
 Babette Josephs
 Jerry Jury
 David Kalbach
 Edward Kalkowski
 Earl & Harriet Kaylor
 Monte Kearney
 Jill Keener
 John Kegelowitz
 Eugene & Martha Keith
 Joshua Kelly
 Douglas Kemper
 Ken Kerle
 Scott Kerns
 Daniel Kerrigan
 Donald Kettl
 Jeanine Keys
 Edward Keyser
 John Kichman, Jr.
 Alvin King
 Noemia King
 John Kissell
 Veronica Klein
 Walter Kleinhans
 Donald Knapp
 Joseph Knecht
 Edward Knight
 Gregory Knight
 Andrew Kochvar
 Kathy Kochvar
 Jason Kollock
 Stephen Konya
 Nicholas Kotula
 John Kramer
 Anna Krapp
 Alec Kreider
 John Kreider
 Gary Kretchmar
 Mary Krohn
 Ann Krout
 Sarkis Kuyumjian
 Alfreda Kwiatkowski
 Joseph Laconti
 Jennifer Lahn
 Richard Laird
 Lisa Lambert
 Dwight Landis
 William Lang
 John Larkins
 John & Kathleen Lauer
 Daniel Laughlin
 Tere Lavallee
 Heather Lavelle
 Kenneth Leach
 Wallace Leary
 Lee & Phoebe Driscoll Foundation
 Daniel Lee
 Rayetta Lee
 Damon Leece
 Charles Leiden
 John Lekka
 Vicky Lender
 Livingston Lennon
 Thomas LeQuear
 Felicia Lewis
 Floyd Lewis
 Jerome Lewis
 Terrance Lewis

Eric Ling
 Paul Letky Lloyd
 William Lockard
 Jay Locke
 Jenifer Loesch
 Jason London
 Jackie Loner
 Durran Long
 Sarah Lorraine
 Charles Lowe
 Karen Luderer
 Emanuel Lybrand
 Douglas MacBride
 Piero Mack
 Sage MacLeod
 Dale Madden
 Kathleen Madland
 James Magee
 Orlando Maisonet
 Sheila Mallory
 Charles Mandakis
 Steven Mann
 David Manos
 Jeffrey Markey
 Richie Marra
 Michael Marsilio
 Sandra Martin
 James Martinez
 Marcia Martinez-Helfman
 John Mason
 Lemar & Lois Mast
 Jack Matson
 Mark Mauer
 Gerald Mawhinney
 Anthony May
 Troi Mayer
 Leonard Mazzella
 George & Mary McAndrews
 Brian McClure
 Edgar McClure
 Jerry McCollum
 Anthony McCoppin
 Eddie McCrary
 Thomas McEachin
 Alison McFarland
 James McGee
 Brian McGill
 Gayle McGill
 David McGinley
 David McHenry
 Kenny McIntyre
 Kim McKaveney
 Mary Jane McKenna
 Deborah McKinley
 James McKinley
 James McKnight
 Raymond McLaughlin
 Corliveetho McMillian
 Mary McNichol
 George & Nan McVaugh
 Alexis McVeigh
 William Melson
 Paul Memmo
 Debra Metcalf
 Diane Hamill Metzger
 Lillian Meyers
 James Miles
 Romanus Miles
 Carol Miller
 Deborah Miller
 Jonathan Miller
 Ken Miller
 Lena Miller
 Robert Miller
 Rod Miller

Frank Millett
James Miller
Dana Mills
Rodney Mills
John Minarik
Michael Minerdo
Kevin Mines
Sarde Ming
Michael Mitchell
Nicole Mitchell
Dennis Mixon
Amira Mohamed
Richard Mohring
Antonio Molina
John Mongeluzzo
Domingo Montanez
Arturo Moody
Tony Moody
Darlene Moore
Gregory Moore
Shuja Moore
Antonio Morales
Carol Spencer Morris
James Morris
Paige Morrison
Stephen Morton
Anthony Moscardelli
Sandra Mosten
Mt. Airy Church of
Philadelphia
Michele Mucci-Deming
Patricia Muck
Alison Murphy
Bernard Murphy
Rahiem Murphy
Joseph Myers
Jack Nagel
Robert Nash
Constance Dalessandro
Peter Neeson
Emanuel Newman
Jerome Nichols
Dennis Nicholson
Kermit Nicholson
Amy Niver
Steven Nocentino
Tyler Norgart
Jerome Norman
Bruce Norris
Lona Norris
Larry Nottage, Jr.
Sambo Nou
Fernando Nunez, Jr.
Livingston O'Kelly, Jr.
Edward O'Brien
Joe O'Donnell
Linda O'Leary
Michelle Obalaja
Timothy Olmos
Carson Osborne
Furman Osborne
Wayne Osgood
Robert Ostrander
Joanna Otero-Cruz
Dante Overby
James Overly
Clifford Owens
Nathaniel Owens
Richard Pacell
Frank Pagan
Dean Palmer
Jon Passeau
Karl Patten, Jr.
Constantinos Pavlides
Jerry Payne, Sr.
Eric Payton
Kimberly Payton

Jeremiah Pendleton
Sean Pendrak
Bette Peoples
Robert Periu
Nancy Perkins
Krishna Permanand
Joseph Perry
Alex Peterson
Spencer Peterson
Preston Pfeifly
Lloyd Philhower
Damien Phillips
Devin Phillips
Lindsay Phillips
William Pierce
Kweilin Pikciunas
Nyako Pippen
Anthony Pitts
Natalie Plochocki
PNC Bank
Derrick Pointer
Tamika Pointer
Eunice & Larry Polansky
Terence Poles
Robert Pollitt
Alfred Porrino
Ann Porter
Jacqueline Poteat
Earnest Potts
Nicholas Pracht
Ingrid Prater
David Prendergast
Barbara Pressman
Kevin Price
Steven Printz
Alphonse Pritchard
Curtis Proctor
Laureta Profka
Tim Purcell
Daniel Quarles
Richard Quiggle
Franklin Quirk
Angelo Quisito
Mira Rainey
Frank Ralph
Alfonso Ramos-Torres
Richard Randolph
John Rauch
Torrey Real
Charles Reddinger
Caroline Reed
Charlotte Reed
Dianne Reed
Dominique Reed
Joan Reese
Jeremy Reinhold
Cassandra Reyes
Cordelia Reyes
David Richardson
Emerson Richburg
Bernadette Ricks
Charles Rideout
Kimberly Riepensell
Leonard Rieser
Michael Riggin
Robert Rigler
Liam Riley
Michael Rinaldi
Hector Rivera
Hector Rivera
Thomas Roach
David Roberts
Mark Robinson
Maxine Robinson
Susan Robinson
Beth Rockwell
Felix Rodriguez

George Rogers
William Rohland
Tierrah Rollins
Anibal Roman
Nathan Rosario
Patricia Rosario
David Rose
Stan Rosenthal
William Ross
Daniel Rottenberg
Joyce Russell
Bernie Ryan
Jafar Saidi
Angelo Salerno, Jr.
Mark Salhoff
Jose Sanabria
Jose Sanako
Raphael Santiago
William Santiago
M. Sarmina
Robert Saunders
Ted Savage
Marianne Sawicki
Sami Sayegh
Joan Scavello
Jeremy Schaale
Joseph Schaeffer
Brian Schaub
Judith Scheffler
Phoebe Schellenberg
Paul Schlueter
Irwin Schmuckler
Ruthi Schultz
Judith Schwab
Adolph Schwartz
Carolyn Schwartz
Melvin Schwartz
Robert Schwartz
Marie Scott
Maureen Scott
Travis Scott
Vicky Scott
Victor Scott
JoAnn Seaver
Scott Sechrist
Russell Selby
Bobby Senter
Warren Sexton
Francis Seybold
Dianna Shade
Rhonda Shaird
Anthony Shamberger
Ralph Sharpe
Mary Shaw
Roger Shaw
Tacey Shaw
J. Mark Shedden
Charles Sheppard
Donald Sherrill
Brent Sherwood
Robert Shively
Jeffrey Shockley
Dennis Short
Lucy Short
Joyce Shutt
Timothy Sibble
Richard Sidon
Mark Sills
Pedro Silva
Stanley Silver
Kate Simmer
Robert Simmons
Robert Simms
Richard Sincavase
Bernice Sisson
Samuel Sizemore
Charlie Sleighter

Daniel Sloan
Patricia Sloan
Janis Smarro
Martin Smillie
Andrea Smith
Arona Smith
Charles Smith
Garnet Smith
Gordon Smith
Michael Smith
Polly Smith
Reed Smith
Rodney Smith
Ronald Smith
Sean Smith
Terrina Smith
Judith Smitley
Reuben Smitley
Carolyn Snape
Nicole Snellbaker
Melanie Snyder
Randy Snyder
Raymond Solano
Diane Solice
Gertrude Solkov

CHANGE.
Hope makes
changes
possible.

Joseph Souder
Kenneth Souder
Dale Southard
Edmund Spaeth
Jon Spatz
Richard Spence
Joseph Spinks
Curtis Spivey
Jason Spraitz
David Sprout
Sanjeev Srivastav
Kathy Stackhouse
Gail Stackworth
Richard Starkey
Gary Starks
Mary Steed
Vernon Steed
Scott Stein
Larry Stephenson
Charles Sterling
Mary Stermer
Vivienne Stewart
Charles S. Strickler, Jr.
Julius Stockton
Arcelia Stovall
Barbara Sutton
Annette Swank
Burnetta Swartz
William Sweeney
James Syphers
Stuart Szczesniowski
Corey Taft
Richard Taggart
Ronald Tann
Jon Tarrant
Sara Tascione
Ishmael Taylor
Joseph Taylor
Paul Taylor
Phyllis Taylor
Hannah Thibideau

Antonio Thomas
Daniel Thomas
Derrick Thomas
Louis Thomas
Robin Thomas
Sandra Thomas
Karen Thompkins
Jackie Lee Thompson
Jeffrey Thompson
Lester Thompson
Bonnie Tjaden
Christopher Toland
Margaret Toland
Joanne Tomasch
Carol Toomey
John Topper
Michael Travaglia
Kaj Travis
Walter Treyer
Angela Trop
Jason Trosko
Natalie Turner
Harry Twiggs
Valentine Underwood
Zimena Underwood
Daniel Under
Shelby Unger-Bacz
Wesley Urch
Jerry Vail
Isaiah Valenti
Steven Valenti
Jessica VanDenend
William VanHorn
Earl Vance, Jr.
Travis Veal
Nelson Vecchione
Ulysses Velez
Ferdinand Vengoechea
Ricky Villanueva
Jennifer Vinsek
Franklin Virgili
Christi Viti
Ray Voelkel
Gregory Vogan
Theodore & Susan
Wachtel
Stephen Wachter
Barbara Walker
Clinton Walker
Jerry Walker
Edwin Wallace
Perry Wallace
Troy Walter
Marcus Walton
Echo Ward
Teresa Warfield
Raymond Washington
Donald Waters
Tony Watkins
David Watson
Darnell Waverson
Gerald Weaber
Chris Webb
John & Sophie Weber
Maria Weick
Gudrun Weinberg
Michael Weir
Ronnie Weldon
Daniel Welliver
Larry Wells
Edith Werdebach
Theodore Werstler
Jeff West
Mark Whitaker
Virginia Whitaker
Deborah White
H. William White

Justin White
Troy White
Scott Wholaver
David Wickes
Craig Wiernik
Iris Wiggins
Renard Wiggins
George Wilkins
Brian Williams
Bruce Williams
Charles Williams
David Williams
Gerard Williams
Gilbert Williams
Johnny Williams
Kendall Williams
Maurice Williams
Shannon Williams-James
Beverly Wilson
Elyse Wilson
Floyd Wilson
John Wilson
Michael Wilson
Henry Wimbush
Petra Wirth
James Wise
Cynthia Wolfe
Gregory Wolfe
Jessica Wolfe
Richard Wood
Carmen Woods
Adonious Wooland
Erik Wright
Dennis Yenash
Augustus Young
Craig Young
Michael Young
Primous Young, III
Jeffrey Young
Richard Young
Stephanie Young
Jon Young
Anthony Zalesky
Wendy Zalles
Helen & Tom Zeager
Joan Zeigler
Jeffrey Ziegler
Harold Zook
Christopher Zoukis
John Zuber
Judy & George Zucker

LEAVE A LEGACY

Join others who have endowed the future work and mission of the Prison Society by naming the Prison Society in your will. Let us know so we can add your name to the **John Dickinson Circle**. Call the Development Office at 215-564-6005, ext. 106.

Every effort has been made to publish a complete and accurate list of donors. If we have erred, please let us know by calling the Development Office at 215-564-6005, ext 106.

*Toward a White House Conference...
continued from page 1*

ries and help in developing these recommendations, which will ultimately be presented to the Obama Administration.

White House Conference on Children and Youth

Adalist-Estrin hopes these recommendations will be on the agenda of the White House Conference on Children and Youth, a platform for developing programs to ensure the health and welfare of our young and keep families together, and that provide a host of other important services for youth.

The White House Conference on Children and Youth, first established in January 1909 by President Theodore Roosevelt, convened every 10 years. But it has not been held for almost 40 years, since 1970.

Recognizing its importance, U. S. Senator Mary Landrieu (*D-La.*) and U. S. Congressmen Chaka Fattah (*D-Pa.*) and Jon Porter (*R-Nev.*) introduced legislation (S.2771/H.R.618) to reestablish the White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010.

"We want to join forces with other organizations to have a presence in developing a White House Conference on Children and Youth, and to be sure that the needs of children of incarcerated parents are considered along with the needs of other children," Adalist-Estrin said.

Barriers to communication

Focus group participants noted several impediments to communication between children and incarcerated parents.

"Exorbitant telephone costs!" shouted one focus group participant.

According to the Center of American Press, costly prison phone

calls can cause some individuals to become estranged from incarcerated family members.

"Placement!" exclaimed another.

Most prisons are located in rural areas of the state. For instance, the two state-run women's prisons in Pennsylvania — SCI Muncy and SCI Cambridge Springs — are about four and eight hours from Philadelphia, respectively. Travel to most state facilities for men take from two to eight hours.

For families who don't own a car or drive, travel can be extremely complicated since major railways and bus lines get you only partway there. And van services, which will take you to your destination, can cost a pretty penny.

*"The time has
come to recognize
and honor the
complexities of both
families living with
criminal justice
involvement and
the issues."*

Several participants noted that low-cost programs — like the Prison Society's Family Transportation Services (offering bus service to 24 correctional facilities for only \$25 round trip) and Virtual Visitation (making it possible for families to visit for only \$20 without actually traveling to the prison) — help them stay in touch with their incarcerated loved ones.

Prison visitation policies

Prison visitation policies can also serve as barriers to maintaining

relationships, participants said.

Prison visiting rooms are open only certain hours during weekdays, and are closed at least two days each week. On weekends, dogs are often used to search visitors traveling from mostly urban communities.

"They do a random search with dogs looking for drugs, and if you say you don't want the search, they won't let you visit," said Wysenia Williams.

Even after traveling for hours and being searched by dogs, Williams noted that families, sometimes, have to endure still more or wait even longer before the hour-long visit actually occurs.

Williams explained, as a Muslim, she is sometimes asked to remove her khimar. In those instances, she must wait an extra half hour for a female guard to search her.

And, when she and the children finally make it into the visiting room, guards can terminate their visit on a whim.

"Let's just say if you hug too long, they'll terminate your visit," Williams said. "They have a suggestion box, which I think I've filled up by now."

Underage and unauthorized

For some children, prison visitation policies are, simply put, harsh and unfair.

"My god-sister was willing to take me to see my father, but the prison wouldn't authorize the visits," said 25-year-old Pamela Abrams, a focus group participant. She was only 16 when her father was incarcerated.

"I came home from school one day [and] he wasn't there," she explained. "And, after a few more days went by and he didn't come home, I thought he was dead somewhere."

Nearly a week passed before Abrams learned that her father was in prison. Two more years slipped by

before she laid eyes on him again.

"I was 18 before I was able to see him [in prison]," she said.

Although her father had been raising her as a single parent since her mother passed away years earlier, the prison would not authorize the visits. That's only because she was underage and didn't have a blood relative to escort her, Abrams explained.

"The time has come to recognize and honor the complexities of both families living with criminal justice involvement and the issues," said Adalist-Estrin. "More and more people are acknowledging the impact of

incarceration on children, families and the community."

You can help!

Contact your legislators to say you support a White House Conference on Children and Youth, and that its agenda *should* include the needs of children of the incarcerated.

To learn more about policy recommendations concerning children of the incarcerated and 15 things you can do to help, visit the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated website at www.fcnetwork.org. ■■■



CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

1. **I have the right** to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest.
2. **I have the right** to be heard when decisions are made about me.
3. **I have the right** to be considered when decisions are made about my parent.
4. **I have the right** to be well cared for in my parent's absence.
5. **I have the right** to speak with, see, and touch my parent.
6. **I have the right** to support as I struggle with my parent's incarceration.
7. **I have the right** not to be judged, blamed, or labeled because of my parent's incarceration.
8. **I have the right** to a life-long relationship with my parent.

15 THINGS TO DO TO SUPPORT CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

1. **Know yourself**—the feelings, experiences and attitudes of everyone who interacts with them and influences the way children of incarcerated parents feel about themselves.
2. **Remember** that all children of incarcerated parents mourn the loss in some way.
3. **Raise awareness** and sensitivity through universal outreach. Children and families of the incarcerated are everywhere and they will notice if notices for programs and services for them are promoted to the entire community, school or organization.
4. **Display materials and articles** about children of the incarcerated on bulletin boards and in parent newsletters for *all* families.
5. **Help** children talk about their feelings.
6. **Provide** educational materials about the impact of parental incarceration on children.
7. **Form** support groups for children of incarcerated parents.
8. **Promote** the inclusion of books and materials about children of incarcerated parents in classrooms and libraries.
9. **Provide** training opportunities for clergy, health care providers, teachers and counselors on children of incarcerated parents
10. **Find** out about the *Bill of Rights for Children of the Incarcerated* and look for examples of community programs that put these rights into action.
11. **Advocate** for implementation of the *Bill of Rights for Children of the Incarcerated* in your workplace, community or state
12. **Bring** the topic to the public's attention by suggesting children and families of the incarcerated serve as a focus for programs and projects for service organizations and communities of faith in your community.
13. **Contact** your representatives in the United States Congress to express your concern about children and families of the incarcerated.
14. **Support** the proposed White House Conference on Children and Youth.
15. **Emphasize** the need to include children of the incarcerated in all policy conversations and initiatives about the state of America's children.

**"Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere."**

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

Correctional Forum

SUMMER 2009

A PUBLICATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PRISON SOCIETY

Promoting a humane, just and constructive correctional system and a rational approach to criminal justice since 1787

IN THIS ISSUE

Executive Director's Column	2
Prison Society News <i>Staff, Retiree and Employee of Quarter</i>	4
222nd Annual Meeting Highlights	5
The Punishment We Deserve	6-7
Legislative Update	8-9
222nd Annual Meeting Awards	10
Donor Listing	11-13
Children of Incarcerated Parents' Bill of Rights	15

PLEASE VISIT www.prisonsociety.org !

Pardons Board Appeal Update

U.S. District Court Judge A. Richard Caputo of the Middle District Court ruled that the Prison Society has standing to file the challenge to the Pardons Board referendum, and that the referendum violated the ex post facto protections of the U.S. Constitution.

"This new ruling provides us with a major victory in this decade-long battle," said Bill DiMascio, Prison Society executive director. "Those whose crimes were committed before 1997 will be able to take advantage of the old three-vote majority to get their applications for commutation on the Governor's desk."