

# Turning Point: The Newsletter of



Citizens United for  
Rehabilitation of Errants

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From the Chair

by Hedy Harden

## CURE Conference Commemorates 25 Years

At least 85 people attended Missouri CURE's 12<sup>th</sup> annual conference on October 3 commemorating 25 years. Although we didn't reach our goal of exceeding last year's attendance, people we spoke to afterwards said this was the best conference they'd ever attended. Big beautiful First Presbyterian Church in St. Louis was our

er ever since. In 1980 they formed the Organization for Black Struggle (OBS), which this January celebrated 35 years.

Early in 1990 I received a call from Jamala, who was then Chair of OBS. Someone from a prison reform organization called "CURE" would be in town from Washington DC and was holding a meeting. She was invited but asked if I'd like to attend in her place. As an activist myself, I saw a great need to make changes in the prison system. So I went to the meeting, where I met Charlie Sullivan, the head of National CURE. Seven people attended that meeting at the World



host. CURE's secretary Kathy

Franklin acted as MC. At least 15 people made the trip here from Kansas City.

Vice-Chairman Keith Brown El set the tone for the program, explaining that, "The real reason we are here is not to celebrate, but to motivate, inspire and strategize on how we can put an end to this monster that is destroying our families and our communities. This monster I'm talking about has a name: It's called Mass Incarceration—which is nothing more than a system of slavery that is just as inhumane, brutal and corrupt as any slave system that has existed at any time before it."

Jamala Rogers, our keynote speaker, connected with the audience as only she can. She also did a book signing of her new book, Ferguson is America: Roots of Rebellion. Jamala is an important part of our history. I had first met her more than 40 years ago in early 1975 when she was part of the Congress of African People (CAP). I was sent to CAP by federal prisoners at Marion IL, with whom I'd been corresponding. The people of CAP became my family, and we've worked together

### CURE Members at Conference

Community Center in St. Louis, four of them family members of

prisoners on death row. Missouri CURE was born that day in April 1990. Now, 25 years later, we had come full circle, welcoming Jamala as our keynote speaker at our own anniversary celebration.

Six excellent workshops were held and lots of good information was shared. LaTahra Smith of the KC Freedom Project led a dynamic workshop on Wrongful Convictions to an overflow crowd. Angie Mueller-Rowly and Lisa Stanton spoke on Prisoner Health, while Angela Bell and I led the workshop on the Initiative Petition. Rev. Elston McCowan and Mary Ann McGivern presented on the topic of Legislation. Law Professor Mae Quinn, whose contributions to the conference were invaluable, led a workshop on Juvenile Justice. Last but certainly not least, a Re-entry workshop was led by Nathaniel Johnson of St. Louis Re-Entry and Andrew Glass of the Fathers Support Center in St. Louis. A delicious lunch was enjoyed along with anniversary cake.

See 25 years—page 5

## Autumn 2015

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**NOTE:** Our toll-free MO CURE phone number is temporarily out of service. We hope to have it back working by our next newsletter. Meanwhile, check our website for updates.

**Missouri CURE**

Executive Board:

Chair: Hedy Harden  
 Vice-Chair: Keith Brown El  
 Secretary: Kathy Franklin

Committee Coordinators:

Audrey Chaney: Education  
 Maria McEntire: Finance  
 Alton Bey: Outreach  
 Angelika Mueller-Rowry: Prisoner Health  
 Ruthann Dunn: Special Communications

Advisory Board:

Ruby Atkins	Kenneth Bell
Michelle Dodson	Kevin Hammerschmidt
Damon Johnson	Dolores Owen
Patricia Prewitt	Roosevelt Price Jr.
Michelle Smith	Jon Marc Taylor
David Ware	Joseph Williams

Special Liaisons:

- Brianna Burton, IWW
- Mary Hutchison, Empower Missouri CJTF
- Curtis Johnson, Kansas City CJTF
- Bev Livingston, Mothers of Incarcerated

***CURE is NOT a service organization. We are an all-volunteer non-profit criminal justice advocacy organization. CURE has NO legal services—please do NOT send legal papers. We advocate for criminal justice reform, but we cannot take on individual cases.***

**Mission Statement**

CURE believes that prisons should be only for those who MUST be incarcerated and that prisoners should have all the resources needed to turn their lives around. CURE is a membership organization. We work hard to provide our members with the information and tools necessary to help them understand the criminal justice system and to advocate for positive change.



Awards ceremony at CURE conference

L-R: Clara Fuller (accepted award for RuthAnn Dunn); Susan Lackamp (accepted for Carol Corey); Lisa Stanton; Jeff Humfeld (accepted for Dolores Owen; Maria Rubin McEntire; Alton Bey; and Angela Bell (accepted Rory Ellinger award presented to Angela and Kenneth Bell). Not pictured: Joe Graves accepted SCCC NAACP Award on behalf of his son Joseph Williams, President of Licking NAACP.



Hedy presents Courageous Citizen Award to Bud Cuzz and Mel of Lost Voices in Ferguson on October 12, 2015 (photo by Rob Silvestri).

The Vera Institute of Justice found that the average annual cost of incarceration in Missouri is more than \$22,000 per prisoner.



Keynote Speaker  
 Jamala Rogers



## Taking Back the Vote Could Bring Epic Change

**Hi.** This is John Knowledge. One of the primary reasons that the courts and legislators are so indifferent to prisoners' rights is because we are a group of mainly nonwhites or poor whites who lack the ability to vote for or against judges, prosecutors and legislators.

Each year for the last couple of decades, bills have been presented to the General Assembly to lower the 85% mandatory minimums or to give eligibility to those serving life without parole. Yet these bills rarely even make it out of committee. This is because the state legislators are concerned only with their constituents, i.e., those who can vote them in/out of office and those who contribute to their campaigns.

Imagine for a moment how government officials would react to our legitimate concerns when, instead of dealing with 32,000 prisoners in Missouri, they are dealing with 32,000 voting citizens who happen to be in prison. Add to that another 68,000 voting citizens on probation and parole, as well as our friends, families and allies.

How would this affect the governor's appointment of a Director of MoDOC? Or his appointment of Missouri Supreme Court Justices? How many legislators would visit the prisons during campaign season to make sure that they are up to international human rights standards?

Also remember that as registered voters we would then be constitutionally allowed to file and sign initiative petitions ourselves to change unfair parole guidelines, excessive sentencing laws, sweatshop prison wages, etc.

I'd also like everyone to recognize that felony disenfranchisement is an issue of national importance. It affects much more than criminal justice issues. Some six million Americans cannot vote due to felony disenfranchisement. This must be understood in the context of America's shift-

ing population. According to the Census Bureau, Nonwhite Americans will be the majority in this nation by 2035. This is made more real by the fact that this year, in 2015, for the first time in American History white school children in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are outnumbered by nonwhite school children. Think about this. In 20 years these school children will become the adult majority in the U.S.

When we understand that this nation functions on the principle of one person-one vote, then it becomes apparent that the right to vote, and especially the exercise of the right to vote, will really change the balance of power in the U.S. going forward. This will affect everything from education and labor to trade and commerce.

In Barak Obama we have witnessed the election of this country's first nonwhite President. But we've also watched his struggle to implement his programs against a majority white power structure in Congress—one that is very afraid of relinquishing the reins of power to the new America that is taking shape as I write this article.

If we are diligent in fighting against voter restriction and the desperate conservative attempt to exile/extradite millions of Latinos as a way of slowing the population shift, if we counter these things now, we will soon witness:

- ◆ The first majority non-white government in U.S. history.
- ◆ A Congress and a Judiciary that are majority African American, Latino and Asian.
- ◆ A country in which the votes of poor whites count as much as those of wealthy whites.

I also want people to understand that all meaningful change requires leadership from those of us who are capable. Many people would like the perks and recognition that comes with leadership without

having to bear the burden and make the sacrifices that it requires. Meaningful change is not easy or free. We can't simply sit back and say that maybe someday things will change. We have to be the change that we want to see. We can't wait for others to solve our problems for us. We have to do it ourselves.

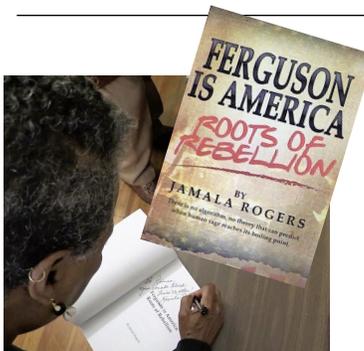
Some prisoners will not want to jeopardize their visiting, honor dorm, or working privileges to bring about change. But you cannot tiptoe through the struggle. You can either be satisfied with small tokens or you can dig in and push for real change. As responsible adults our only refrain should be that what we do is lawful. As long as we are operating within the law we must not be intimidated.

Also, we must not look back at past failures as our reason for not participating in this movement. Very successful people know that the secret to success is to be able to fail time and time again without losing enthusiasm or the drive to succeed. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-control." That is what we must exercise and that's what I'd like everyone to know. So get your family and friends involved in collecting signatures for the Initiative. Our deadline of April 1, 2016 is fast approaching. If you have questions or need petition form contact Hedy Harden, our CURE Chair. You may also contact Mrs. Angela Bell at [takebackthevote2016@gmail.com](mailto:takebackthevote2016@gmail.com).

When you've collected all the signatures that you can collect, have your petitions notarized and forward them to: Take Back the Vote, P.O. Box 150299, St. Louis MO 63115. May God bless you all.

Synergism,  
**John J. Knowledge**

*Ed: An edited version of this article was published in Sept. 24-30, 2015 edition of the St. Louis American newspaper as a Guest Editorial. ♦*



Jamala's Book Signing



Legislative Workshop



Chow time



**Upcoming Activities:**

**November**

2nd: CURE meeting at Bluford Library in KCMO 6-8 PM

6th: STL CURE Meeting at U. City Library 6:30-8:30 PM

7th: Health Fair at Vandalia (WERDCC)

Who said there's no free lunch!

## Mass Incarceration—Missouri Style

by Keith Brown EI

This AT&T building in downtown Kansas City has stood vacant for many years. It may have been empty ever since the government started allowing AT&T and other major corporations to contract prison labor. These corporations, working through the state, can hire prisoners to do certain kinds of jobs for miniscule wages compared to what it would cost them to hire people off the street. Since prisons offer an abundant supply of employees contained within the boundaries of their institutions, these corporations can also save thousands of dollars in utilities and building maintenance



AT&T building in KCMO

each month by closing buildings like the one in this picture instead of keeping them open. There are numerous other vacant buildings owned by AT&T and other major corporations in Kansas City, St. Louis and all over the country.

In fact, the former One Bell Center, a 44-story AT&T tower in downtown St. Louis, was emptied out in 2012 to accommodate the growing number of employees working from home **“and other non-office locations.”** Once the largest building in St. Louis holding thousands of workers, ATT had been reducing the building’s head count for years.

Contracting prison slave labor means the elimination of millions of jobs on the outside. No real savings are passed along to the consumer, and the only

things that seem to be growing and multiplying are corporate greed, a failing economy, and the demand for more prison labor—hence mass incarceration.

Although Missouri is not currently in the business of contracting state prison labor to major corporations, ours is a global economy, and the impact of this is still being felt here and elsewhere because of what is taking place in other state and federal prisons.



One AT&T Center in St. Louis



**Jamala's speech energized us all!**

**25 years from page 1**

**4** humanitarian awards were presented to **Maria (Rubin) McEntire, Alton Bey, Lisa Stanton, Dolores Owen** (accepted by Jeff Humfeld), **Carol Corey** (accepted by Susan Lackamp), **Ruthann Dunn** (accepted by Clara Fuller), and the **NAACP at Licking** (accepted by Joe Gray, father of SCCC NAACP President Joseph Williams).

Our conference was dedicated to the courageous freedom fighters in Missouri prisons and Ferguson MO.

Two major awardees received plaques: 1. Our second annual **Rory Ellinger Award** was presented to **Kenneth and Angela Bell**, originators of the "Take Back the Vote"

initiative petition that seeks to enfranchise prisoners, parolees and probationers in Missouri.

2. Our third annual **Courageous Citizen Award** was presented to the **Lost Voices** of Ferguson, a group of young people who emerged after the murder of Michael Brown and which has been steadfast in continuing to protest ever since. These are street kids who were out there hustling to survive. Some of them initially came out intending to loot, but saw how serious the protest was and stayed to fight.

It has changed their lives. Some of them have spent time in prison and are still struggling to remain free. They spoke at the Million Man March commemoration this month in Washington DC. The following week they planned to be in Wisconsin speaking to

young people. Although the Lost Voices were not physically present at the conference, I met with some of them later in Ferguson to present the award (see page 2).

**E**lections were held, and Keith finished the program with a poignant rendition of a poem called "Transmission Received" (I got the message), which had many of us choked up.

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our conference, whether by donating money for expenses, helping to organize transportation, or assisting at the conference itself.

By all accounts it was a huge success, and all credit goes to you. ❖

**25**

## CURE Activities

### August

- 7 St. Louis CURE meeting at U. City Library 6:30-8:30
- 8 Youth "Chalk Out" in STL City (part of Michael Brown Commemorative weekend)
- 9 Ferguson March from Canfield to St. Mark's Church (drone seen in sky above marchers)
- 9 Harris Stowe State University: Ferguson panel discussion (petitions)
- 9 Cornell West speaking event in Ferguson at St. Mark's Church, including Bree Newsome from S. Carolina
- 15 African American Art Festival at Crown Center STL (petitions)
- 15, 22, 29 IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) "Letters to Prisoners" meetings in KC
- 19 Gateway Greens organizing meeting in STL; got endorsement for Initiative Petition.
- 22 Rev. Nathaniel Johnson's re-entry picnic at Forest Park STL (petitions)
- 29 Reggie Clemons birthday celebration STL (petitions)
- 29 International Festival at Tower Grove Park STL (petitions)
- 29 United African People's Organization (UAPO) Marcus Garvey celebration, STL (petitions)
- 30 International Festival at Tower Grove Park STL (petitions)
- 31 CURE meeting in Kansas City at Bluford Library 6-8 PM



### September

- 3 STL CURE meeting at U. City Library 6:30-8:30 PM
- 5 Angie with Washington University Students collected signatures at Hanley Metro station in STL
- 11-12 MADP Board Planning Days in Liberty MO
- 12, 19 IWW Letters to Prisoners meetings in KC
- 16 Empower Missouri meeting of Criminal Justice Task Force in Jefferson City
- 19 Gateway Greens Pesto Feast fundraiser STL (petitions)
- 28 Jamala Rogers book signing at Schlaffley Library STL
- 29 CURE meeting at Bluford Library in KCMO



### October

- 3 **Annual CURE Conference STL commemorating 25 years**
- 4 Videotaping for documentary "Slavery 2.0": Renese (Walter Hunter) and Shelby (Judy Pickens)
- 4 STL meeting with Angie, Susan, Shelby, Renese, Veronica, Keith & Hedy
- 7 Jamala Rogers book signing in Kansas City at Bluford Library
- 8 MISD Meeting in KC
- 9 Eggs & Enlightenment meeting in KC
- 12 Keith interviewed prisoner Kevin Hammerschmidt on Jaws of Justice radio
- 12 Hedy presented award to Lost Voices in Ferguson
- 13 STL City Hall public hearing on nominations for Civilian Review Board of Police Department
- 15 Civilian Oversight Board meeting STL District 3
- 16 Juvenile Justice Seminar at Washington University Law School
- 17 Angela Bell speaks at Manasseh dinner: Ex-offenders Making a Difference (Ex MAD)
- 20 WERDCC NAACP Banquet in Vandalia
- 21 JCCC NAACP Banquet
- 24, 31 IWW Letters to Prisoners meetings in KC



**Wrongful Convictions Workshop**



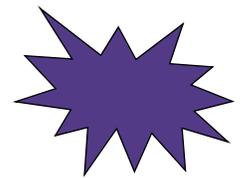
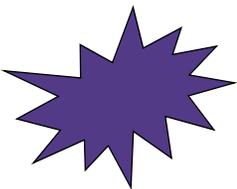
**Led by LaTahra Smith**

**Folks said an hour wasn't long enough for this workshop.**



**"Transmission Received" (I got the message.)**

**Keith Brown El's poem closed out the conference.**



## Prisoner Health Committee Update

from Angelika Mueller-Rowry, Coordinator

As you may remember, I started collecting evidence of human rights violations in prison such as medical negligence, malpractice, arbitrary treatment and institutional abuse about 18 months ago. My husband Robert had just died of liver cancer, deprived of his human dignity, shackled and chained like a slave. This was 9 days after Robert was denied medical parole and roughly eight weeks before his parole release date.

Meanwhile I have received alerts, complaints and very valuable information from people at 14 Missouri state prisons. Unfortunately, very often I cannot keep up with addressing all the concerns brought to my attention in a timely fashion, as I am only volunteering and have a full-time

job. Numbers have increased to about 80+ serious cases in the course of the past six months. Emergencies take precedence.

So, even if you don't hear back from me, or I don't get around to writing to DOC Health Services for a while, I want you to know that each of your letters is taken very seriously. Each letter is read and filed, and a summary is prepared and entered into a spreadsheet that I regularly update, so as not to lose the overview. This summary goes to Attorney Randall Cahill in St. Louis, with whom I work, and to Blake Lawrence, Chief Legal Counsel for State Senator Jamilah Nasheed, since she sits on the legislative Corrections Committee, as well as on the Committee for Governmental Oversight and Accountability.



Before addressing DOC regarding complicated medical problems I consult with a Prisoner Health Committee colleague who is my medical adviser. When I hear about a prisoner who is kept in solitary confinement for an extended period of time, I consult with Elston McCowan (NAACP). It is noteworthy that when it comes to mental health problems in segregation, DOC re-directs me to their legal counsel. This should not discourage us, as it means that they know they are committing Human Rights violations. Recently my seven 3-inch binders of correspondence have all been copied for future use in a broader context.

The process is slow, but we'll get there – so keep writing. Receiving regular up-dates from you is very important. ❖

## Massive Juvenile Justice Bribery Scandal



Former Pennsylvania judge Mark Ciavarella Jr. was sentenced to 28 years in prison October 8 for selling black teenagers to youth prisons. Ciavarella was convicted earlier this year of taking \$1 million in bribes from developers of juvenile detention centers over several years, after which he would sentence the youths to these centers, in what came to be called "kids for cash." The PA Supreme Court threw out approximately 4,000 convictions the former judge had issued between 2003 and 2008.



Ronald Burton, Keith Brown El & Darryl Burton at Jamala's book signing in Kansas City October 7.

## Political Prisoner Support

Leonard Peltier was wrongfully convicted in 1977 in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota. The federal prosecutor has twice admitted that the government did not and cannot prove Peltier's guilt. Evidence shows that prosecutors and federal agents manufactured evidence against him, hid proof of his innocence, presented false testimony, ignored court orders and lied to the jury. In 2003, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals found that "Much of the government's behavior at the Pine Ridge Reservation and in its prosecution of Mr. Peltier is to be condemned. The government withheld evidence. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed."



Leonard Peltier self portrait

Imprisoned for nearly 40 years—currently at the federal prison in Coleman, Florida—Peltier has been designated a political prisoner by Amnesty International. Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, 55 Members of Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Peltier's appeals—have all called for his immediate release.

After many years of high blood sugar, Leonard is at serious risk for kidney failure and the need for dialysis, with blood vessel damage in the eyes that can lead to blindness, and nerve damage in the feet that could lead to the need for amputation. Leonard already suffers from a heart condition. The situation is life threatening.

Please write or call the Bureau of Prisons urging them to transfer Leonard Peltier (#89637-132) to a Medium Security facility due to his serious health conditions. Please be very respectful when you call or write. You attract more flies with honey than you do with vinegar.

Contact: Designation & Sentence Computation Center  
 Email: [GRA-DSC/PolicyCorrespondence@bop.gov](mailto:GRA-DSC/PolicyCorrespondence@bop.gov)  
 Phone: [972-352-4400](tel:972-352-4400) Fax: [972-352-4395](tel:972-352-4395) ❖

## No longer Numbers but People with a Human Face

A shift in public thinking can accomplish positive change

by *Angelika (Angie) Mueller-Rowry*

**M**issouri CURE is asking you to write down the story of your life. We would like to put together a book collection (anthology) that will help the average, more-often-than-not judgmental citizen to better understand WHY people end up in prison—that it was not your choice. Of course, we all have some choices, even under the roughest conditions, but life circumstances make it is easier for some people than for others to make the right decisions. And growing up in a prison with invisible walls—as most of you have, where nothing is to be had for free—the choices that have to be made are often those between a rock and a hard place. Not to mention that many of you end up behind bars who are innocent.



Our hope is that by telling your stories we can remove some of the "blame" and broaden the average citizen's perspective, help them understand that splitting the community into "perpetrators" and "victims" is yet another, and very insidious strategy of "divide and conquer" in order to divert the focus away from the underlying societal wrongs which none of the powers-that-be want to address.

Learning to see YOU as a human being will make a difference. It will help "mainstream" folks understand that prisoners have strengths and weaknesses, make mistakes and bad decisions (often very serious ones) –just like everybody else. It can encourage the "silent majority" to stand up - not only for sentencing and prison reform and for alternatives to incarceration, but even more so for direly needed positive change in our politically neglected and economically depleted,

suffering communities. It can help put an end to mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex.

Guiding questions could be:

- ◆ Describe where and how you grew up.
- ◆ What are your fondest, what are your worst memories?
- ◆ What was important for you in life, as a young person?
- ◆ What were your goals and dreams while growing up?
- ◆ What happened in your life that you ended up in prison?
- ◆ What could have helped or would have been needed to keep you out of trouble?
- ◆ Tell us about your experiences since you got locked up.
- ◆ Did these experiences help you to "correct" your life?
- ◆ What would need to change?
- ◆ What would you tell young people in the street, struggling with the same things as you did, to keep them out of trouble?

Each of you has a story to tell, and we would like to hear your stories, as they will send a powerful message to be reckoned with. If you want your contribution to remain anonymous, we will honor your wish. If you have a suggestion for the book title, let us know. Please send submissions to Life Stories, Missouri CURE, P.O. Box 28931, St. Louis MO 63132.

**Disclaimer:** Proceeds, if any, will be dedicated to the prison reform efforts of Missouri CURE. ❖

*Audrey Chaney (STL)*

*Shirley Miner (STL)*

*Renese Drake (KCMO)*

*Angie Mueller-Rowry (STL)*

## Freedom Fund Dinners

by *Hedy Harden*

**M**issouri CURE attended NAACP banquets 2 days in a row this October.

Redditt Hudson and Elston McCowan of the St. Louis NAACP and I attended the Freedom Fund banquet October 20 at WERDCC in Vandalia. The theme was "Each one reach one."

President Judy Pickens was an exceptional host, and several other women presented dramatic accounts of what led them to prison. A brilliant celebration dance was performed in mime by Shawn-telle Fisher of Soul Fisher Ministry, followed by guest speeches. Food was

delicious and plentiful. I passed along greetings from other branches and received greetings to be given to the JCCC branch.

**T**he next night Elston, Angie and I traveled to Jeff City for the dinner there. This event was a victory in that the branch had been in danger of dissolving.

James Robinett was installed as the new VIC. Elston, Angie and I spoke. Vice-President Lonnie Lockhart Bey gave an inspiring presentation. He talked about the

many things the branch needed to do in the future and that it was up to them to fight

for their futures. A 21-year-old youngster spoke movingly of his hopes for making life better for himself and his nephews who look up to him. "I may not have grown up



wanting to be president," he said, "but I can hope to one day be president of this branch." ❖



Evelyn Gates introduced our keynote speaker



Kathy Franklin, our Secretary, was MC

### Not what you might think

**R**esearchers at Chapman University asked a random sampling of 1,541 adults to rate their level of fear for 88 options like crime and natural disasters.

Here's what Americans are most afraid of (top ten):

1. **Corruption of government officials (58.0%)**
2. Cyberterrorism (44.8%)
3. Corporate tracking of personal information (44.6%)
4. Terrorist attacks (44.4%)
5. Government tracking of personal information (41.4%)
6. Bio-warfare (40.9%)
7. Identity theft (39.6%)
8. Economic collapse (39.2%)
9. Running out of money in the future (37.4%)
10. Credit card fraud (36.9%)



Time Magazine October 14, 2015

### Mizanskey Finally Free

**A**fter serving more than 20 years of a life-without-parole sentence for marijuana, Jeff Mizanskey walked out of prison a free man on September 1. Jeff was one of Missouri CURE's "Ten Most Wanted" (to be Released) at our 2014 annual conference in Kansas City. A groundswell of public support for Jeff resulted in Governor Nixon commuting Jeff's sentence on May 22 to life with possibility of parole. On August 10 the Missouri board granted parole, and Jeff was released September 1.



### Coalition Partners (IWW)

**C**URE members Carl Greer and Brianna Burton have worked hard all year to find ways to streamline communications with large numbers of prisoners throughout the state of Missouri as well as across the United States. We have long appreciated the support of Keith Brown El at the weekly Letters to Prisoners meetings in Kansas City. He provides valuable insights about the situations people in prison are facing as well as offering potential solutions to their hardships and also insuring that we coordinate with CURE in all of our activities.

This year we spent a lot of time doing outreach to other organizations. We met with members and successfully strengthened personal relationships within those organizations. We are excited to be currently setting up the first IWW branch inside a prison. Through our work with IWW (KCMO), we have acquired a significant amount of data regarding medical issues in Missouri prisons. We hope to work closely with CURE's Prisoner Health Specialist over the coming year. ❖



Rev. Nathaniel Johnson's Re-entry picnic in Forest Park

# Journal of Philosophies—Food for Thought

by Keith Brown EI

See if you can correctly match each of these statements to the person who made it.

1. Patriotism is the virtue of the vicious.
2. Patience has its limits. Take it too far and it's cowardice.
3. This Country with its institutions belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise the constitutional right to alter or amend it, or their revolutionary right to dismember and overthrow it. If by mere force of numbers, a majority should deprive a minority of any clearly written constitutional right, it might, in any moral point of view, justify revolution.
4. The world cares very little about what a man or woman knows; it is what the man or woman is able to do.
5. Aunt Jemima and Uncle Tom are dead, their places taken by a group of amazingly well-adjusted young men and women, almost as dark, but ferociously literate, well-dressed and scrubbed, who are never laughed at, who are not likely ever to set foot in a cotton or tobacco field or in any but the most modern of kitchens; but before we rejoice at the demise of Aunt Jemima and Uncle Tom ... we had better ask from whence they sprang, how they lived, into what limbo have they vanished? However inaccurate our portraits of them were, these portraits do suggest, not only the conditions, but the quality of their lives and the impact this spectacle [continues to have on ours].
6. If we bring up religion, we will get in an argument, we'll get in a fight and we'll never get together and get anything done. So keep your religion in the closet. Keep it to yourself, keep it between you and the gods you worship because it if hasn't done anything more for you than it has ... you need to forget it anyway!
7. Even though some people give you no respect, be intelligent when you put 'em in check cause when you're ignorant you get treated that way and when they throw you in jail you got nothing to say. So if you don't listen it's not my fault, I'll be getting paid and you'll be paying the cost, sitting in the jailhouse running your mouth, while me and my people trying to get out.
8. You don't have to teach people how to be human. You have to teach them how to stop being inhuman.
9. In a society that imprisons men unjustly, the only place for a just man is in prison.
10. There are two things in this world that people in this country have no sympathy for: a great white shark and a black male.

**Authors**

- ◆ James Baldwin
- ◆ Eldridge Cleaver
- ◆ Too Short
- ◆ Booker T. Washington
- ◆ Henry David Thoreau
- ◆ D.L. Hughley
- ◆ Oscar Wilde
- ◆ Abraham Lincoln
- ◆ "Comrade George" Jackson
- ◆ Malcolm X

**No New Prisons in Missouri?**

According to the September 1, 2015 Kansas City Star, 651 Mulberry (the former Kansas City Community Release Center) has been changed to the Kansas City Re-entry Center. It will eventually have 400 inmates, becoming a new Missouri prison.



**Sounds of War**

by Hedy Harden

**A**t night I often hear gunfire in my neighborhood, and I fear for the young people who must try to mature and survive in such an environment.

Yet nearly every day as I sit at my computer, I also hear the deep rumble of war planes outside my window, and I think about the people in distant lands who will die from those bombs. I've told my son Rob about this, and he doesn't want to believe it. But I grew up during the cold war, and I'm very familiar with the sounds of flying death.

My periodontist is from Syria, and he told me what the mass media doesn't, that ISIS means Islamic State Iraq-Syria, and that the U.S. is supporting Al-Kaeda in this conflict—against the secular government.

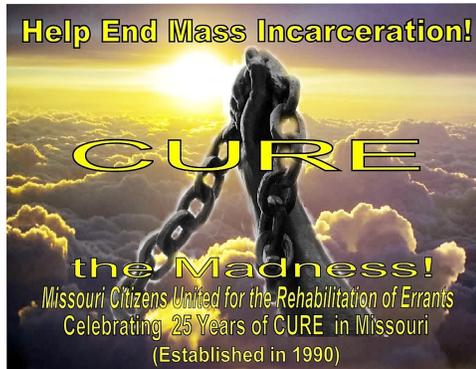
Who are the true perpetrators of violence in our world?



**Missouri CURE**  
**P.O. Box 28931**  
**St. Louis MO 63132**



***Help Stop Mass Incarceration—and CURE the Madness!***



Thanks so much to the following people who donated to Missouri CURE: Cheryl Bradley, Cathleen Burnett, Giles Chapman, Phil Fielder, Tanner Forry, Demosthenes Hill, Raymond Hinton, Kim Jayne, Curtis Johnson, J.R. Jones, Kristy Martinez, Donald Morris, Margaret Phillips, and Dorothy Yeager. Special thanks to Denorce Starks; to Brianna Burton & Carl Greer; and Mae Quinn for donating \$100 each; to the PCC NAACP for its gift of \$400, to the SCCC NAACP for donating \$400, and to Carol Corey & Will Holcomb for donating \$500. Once again, we are also greatly indebted to Action Mailing Corporation for generously contributing the printing of this newsletter. **THANK YOU ALL!**

*Muchas Gracias!*

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\* Stamps from prisoners are welcome if permitted by your institution.