This is CCWP’s 25th year of advocating with and for people in CA’s women’s prisons for human rights and freedom. CCWP stands for CA Coalition for Women Prisoners, but it also represents our motto: “Caring Collectively for People in Women’s Prisons.” Collective caring has always been the heart of CCWP’s work, and it is based on clear principles of respect, reciprocity, racial justice, gender justice, and building collectivity through community strength and from the leadership of those most impacted.

Caring collectively is a radical act, given that American society is built on individualism and ‘me-first’ attitudes. In contrast, as member Aakifah Smith told CCWP members Emily Thuma and Joe Hankins regarding CCWP’s mission, “There is no judgement, no shaming, love and support. Restorative rather than punishment. Making me better. CCWP is caring, compassionate, supportive, love, amazing.”

Both inside prisons and out, CCWP members step forward, whether it is through: leading peer-support groups; being a Comfort Care or Compassionate Companions volunteer; offering knowledge and assistance as a jailhouse lawyer or peer health advocate; organizing a vigil, rally or petition

Continued “Caring Collectively” on p. 2
Caring Collectively (cont from p. 1)

The Fire Inside bears witness to and is evidence of how things have—and have not—changed. The fundamental issues that gave rise to this organization 25 years ago are still the critical issues today. We are still fighting for health care, whether it is to fight COVID, for reproductive health, the specific needs of Trans and GNC people, or the general, basic health needs of any person. We are still fighting for dignity and respect for every person behind bars. We are fighting to end LWOP and all extreme sentencing. And we continue to fight against a system that sees punishment as the solution to the deep inequities of this society.

CCWP member Contreras wrote, “…caring collectively means that as a member or part of CCWP, we help each other. We put our efforts, our ideas, our thoughts, our compassion, our wisdom together, to find the way for many of us. Gathered into a whole for a purpose. Gathered together, to support each other.”

This has been a year like no other. We go forward together. We make change together.
Welcome Aminah Elster!

CCWP is happy to welcome Aminah Elster into a new staff position, Campaign and Policy Coordinator. Starting in October 2020, Aminah hit the ground running in her work with the Drop LWOP! statewide campaign and overall coordination of CCWP’s policy work.

Aminah has a long herstory of advocacy for people in women’s prisons, beginning with her desire to overcome a life of imprisonment. Aminah became a member of CCWP in 2012 and a member of Survived and Punished, a coalition committed to justice and freedom for survivors of domestic violence, in 2017. Most recently, she founded Unapologetically HERS which centers and empowers those in women’s prisons.

In her new role with CCWP, Aminah will support the development of progressive legislation that can make significant changes in the criminal injustice system. This will include policies to impact conditions of confinement, sentencing structure, parole processes, and immigrant detention, while focusing on CCWP’s current campaign to end Life Without Parole (LWOP) and all forms of extreme sentencing.

Welcome Home Chocolate!

Fire Inside had the pleasure of interviewing Yvette Chocolate Brown in October 2020. Chocolate, as her friends and family all know her, was released on Oct. 1, 2020 after being resentenced on an 1170(d)(1) petition after 22 plus years on a third strike conviction. Below is some of what she shared.

It was a fluke that I applied. I did not think I could prevail on such an extraordinary release. The criteria sounded like I met them, but I did have write ups in past, though I had been write-up free for 8 years. A counselor emailed Sacramento to check on criteria and found I did meet them.

Many CDCr staff acknowledged and wrote about my change. Then I got letter from Stanford Law School Three Strikes Project that they wanted to represent me on the 1170(d)(1) in 2019. They received a notice from CDCr saying I qualified for 1170(d)(1) and Malena Blake stepped in to represent me.

I was serving 25 to life plus 10 years on enhancements (my priors) on a 3rd strike. It took a while to get to court because of COVID. When I went to court in LA County the DA opposed me because I had priors. And my attorney said OF COURSE she has priors, she is a 3 striker, so what a ridiculous basis to oppose my petition! Well, the judge agreed and resentedence me to 18 years time served and no parole.

Best part of coming home—I have been embraced with love. I have the best support and best friend giving me solid inspiration.

Worst part of coming home—Leaving people behind and knowing they should have a chance to be free. Which is why I am already speaking out and advocating for people still in prison and always will.

CCWP welcomes Chocolate home and says, “Thank you Chocolate!”
The Fire Inside

CWP is very excited that the CA Racial Justice Act (AB 2542, which CCWP co-sponsored) was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 30, 2020. Assemblymember Kalra, the lead author of the bill, stated in his press release, “The Racial Justice Act puts into law a manifestation of a continuing struggle most recently represented by millions in the streets demanding racial justice.”

AB 2542 prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction, or imposing a sentence, based upon race, ethnicity or national origin. The Act would make it possible for a person charged or convicted of a crime to challenge their charges or conviction by presenting evidence of racial bias demonstrated in their case. The law applies to all cases after January 1, 2021; unfortunately it is NOT retroactive.

Romarilyn Ralston, CCWP Policy Associate, stated in the press release “AB 2542 is an unprecedented piece of legislation and long overdue in correcting a historically anti-Black legal-punishment system.”

Amber-Rose Howard, Executive Director of Californians United for a Responsible Budget explained, “Far too many Black families have been torn apart due to systemic racism and it is time that we address that trauma in our courts.”

CCWP looks forward to supporting a strong implementation of the Racial Justice Act.

Landmark Racial Justice Law Passed

Prop 17, Known as ‘Free the Vote’, restores voting rights to people who have completed a prison sentence, even if still on parole. CCWP strongly supported Prop 17 and is so happy that our formerly incarcerated members and all others on parole can now vote! The Free the Vote sponsoring organizations issued a victory statement on November 3rd once it was clear the proposition had won by over 59% of the vote: Today, millions of California voters definitively righted a historic wrong with the approval of Prop 17, restoring the right to vote to nearly 50,000 of our neighbors. This is truly a remarkable victory for democracy and justice, and for the movement to restore the right to vote to Americans with past convictions.

Prop 20 was an effort by law enforcement and police unions to roll back progressive criminal legal reforms, such as Props 47 and 57, and to increase spending on incarceration. It was DEFEATED by 62% of people voting NO. The proposition proposed adding 22 crimes to the list of violent felonies which restricted early parole; recategorized certain types of theft and fraud crimes as chargeable as misdemeanors or felonies and required DNA collection for certain misdemeanors. CCWP was strongly opposed to Prop 20 and welcomes this indication that CA voters have had enough of ‘tough on crime’ laws.

Prop 25 would have replaced cash bail with Risk Assessment Tests, upholding SB10 which was passed by the legislature in 2018. Prop 25 was defeated. Supporters of Prop 25 wanted the implementation of SB10 to proceed which would have meant that money bail was no longer allowable and that Risk Assessment Tests (RATs) would be used to determine pre-trial detention or released. Opponents of Prop 25 argued that SB10 mandated the use of RATs which have been shown to be racially biased, replacing one discriminatory system with another that is even more biased. CCWP took a neutral position on Prop 25, reflecting the different opinions of our members on the issue. Now that Prop 25 has been defeated, we welcome the possibility of creating a different pretrial system entirely, one that does not use money bail, rejects risk assessment tools, and requires pretrial release for a majority of the people.

Measure J – Reimagine L.A. passed, shifting potentially $1 billion in county funds to alternatives to incarceration. Measure J amended L.A. County’s charter to permanently allocate at least 10% of existing locally-controlled revenues to be directed to community investment and alternatives to incarceration. CCWP supported Measure J and is excited about this significant shift in L.A.’s budget priorities which can serve as an example to other counties around CA and the country.
SB 132 — Victory for Trans Respect And Dignity

SB 132, the Transgender Respect, Agency and Dignity Act (Sen. Weiner) was signed into law by Gov. Newsom in Sept. 2020 and will go into effect in Jan. 2021. For over two years, currently and formerly incarcerated trans people, other advocates and attorneys worked together to insure the safety and dignity of trans people, and all incarcerated people. We understand that there has been a lot of misinformation circulating (sometimes on purpose) via prison staff and through the grapevine and hope this will address some concerns.

SB 132 means that transgender, nonbinary, and intersex (TGI) people in CDCr custody will have the right to choose their housing placement in accordance with their gender identity or to choose their housing based on what is best for their health and safety. SB 132 will ensure that a trans woman can choose to be housed in accordance with her gender identity in a facility with other women, or she can choose to be housed in a men’s facility if that is the facility that would be the most beneficial for her health and safety. Similarly, SB 132 means that a trans man can choose to be housed with other men or he can choose to be housed in a women’s facility if that facility would be the most beneficial for his health and safety. SB 132 does not allow men to be transferred to a women’s facility and it does not impact housing or search policies for non-TGI (cis) people.

SB 132 was passed in response to the horrendous level of violence and abuse that TGI people experience in the CDCr system. The SB 132 Coalition developed a series of informational flyers specific to the questions and concerns of TGI people in men’s and women’s prisons, and for CIS women (people who were assigned female at birth, and who identify as women). Please write to CCWP, ATTN: SB 132 FAQs if you would like more information.

What does it MEAN to be transferred to a Women’s Prison? A fresh and new start? Safety? Escape from predatory men? Escape from the clutches of the brutal hands of CDCr custody?

For some trans women this may be their answer, but for me it’s more. Is it really a new start or is it just starting over in a new place? Are we guaranteed safety, because truly we will never be fully safe in prison. Is it really an escape from CDCr, because we’re still within the CDCr system. No, it’s more than all of that.

To me this is a victory for all trans women and persons under the transgender umbrella. This is a huge milestone. This is a better chance of surviving in prison. This is an opportunity for opportunities.

To me, this is history, or should I say Her-story, your story, my story, their story, OUR STORY!

I am honored to have been part of this amazing accomplishment. Acknowledgement goes to those individuals who worked tirelessly on SB 132 and the stories that brought light to the need of trans people. From the bottom of my heart, I say thank you to each and every one of you.
The Fire Inside

Legislative updates

The following legislation has passed, been signed by the Governor and will become law soon. It took a lot of community organizing to push each and every one of those bills through the process. These accomplishments are the efforts of many. We applaud their persistence in trying to make a better world.

SB 823 On 9.30.20 Gov. Newsom signed it into law, effectively closing the Div. of Juvenile Justice (DJJ, formerly known as the CA Youth Authority) without expanding the use of cages. It is the result of 15 years of community organizing, a huge step toward ending youth incarceration in CA and replacing it with youth development and trauma-informed care. SB 823 goes into effect 7/2021. The work is not done. For more info: Youth Justice Coalition, action@youth4justice.org / @YouthJusticeLA

AB 3234 Elderly parole eligibility changed to 50 years old and served 20 years of sentence. Must hold elderly parole hearings by Dec. 31, 2022 for all incarcerated people eligible by that date.

SB 118 A Compassionate Release finding by a court no longer requires BPH recommendation. Also, parole period for determinate sentence is 2 years and for life sentence is 3 years. Must consider discharge from parole after 12 months (with exceptions). Applies to persons released on parole on or after July 1, 2020. SB 118 also requires that postsecondary educational institutions not inquire into applicant’s criminal history until final decision on applicant.

AB 2147 Prisoner firefighters, when released from custody, will be eligible for dismissal of conviction and termination of probation (with some exceptions).

AB 732 County jails and state prisons must offer pregnancy tests within 72 hours of jail arrival, and, if pregnancy is confirmed, offer services such as an exam by physician, NP, midwife, or PA within 7 days. It also prohibits the use of tasers, pepper spray, or other chemical weapons against incarcerated pregnant people.

AB 3043 CDCr must allow a confidential call, at least 30 minutes once per month, with an attorney representing a prisoner.

AB 1506 Requires state prosecutors to investigate police killings of unarmed civilians and that reports must be made public; creates Police Practices Division of AG as of 7/1/23 to review use of deadly force policies on request of local law enforcement.

Additionally, the Governor REFUSED to sign SB 1064. This bill would have restricted CDCr’s abuse of uncorroborated confidential information. Sen. Skinner’s proposed legislation required independent corroboration of so-called “information,” more transparency in disclosing when and where incidents occurred, and some due process in challenging the material. The Governor indicated he wanted CDCr to correct these policies themselves, something not likely to happen. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and UnCommon Law were the co-sponsors of the bill. CCWP supported it. We will keep working together.

The Verdict Is In...

#ReleaseNotTransfers
#BringThemHome

On October 20th, an important legal decision was made challenging CDCr’s mishandling of the COVID-19 crisis at San Quentin, ordering them to reduce the population by 50% and stop excluding lifers and others serving lengthy sentences.
Forced Sterilization Exposed

In September 2020, Dawn Wooten, a nurse at the Irwin ICE Detention Center in Georgia, filed a whistleblower complaint. She accused doctors of performing unnecessary “mass hysterectomies” on immigrant women at the Detention Center while denying them necessary health care. Her report and the subsequent investigations into medical practices at Irwin, which is run by the LaSalle private prison company, have once again exposed the racist practice of sterilization and other eugenics (population control) practices which have been repeatedly used against Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other people of color in the U.S.

According to Project South’s legal advocacy director, most of the women at Irwin have fled persecution, torture and rape in the countries they left and are seeking refuge in the U.S. Instead, ICE subjects them to abuse and solitary confinement when they protest. Wooten’s complaint stirred public outrage and the House of Representatives quickly passed resolution 1153 condemning the medical abuse and calling for a full investigation. Grassroots groups went much further, calling for an end to deportations, the release of the detained women and the closure of the Irwin Detention Facility.

The revelations at Irwin came after the CA legislature failed for the third year in a row to pass a bill that would provide reparations/compensation for survivors of sterilization abuse. CCWP was a co-sponsor of AB3052 (sponsored by Assemblymember Carrillo) along with CA Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) and the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF). The bill would have established a fund to compensate survivors of forced sterilization in CA prisons and in the community. A state audit in 2014 revealed that more than 144 women and TGNC people were sterilized without consent in CA women’s prisons between 2006-2010. Most of the incarcerated people have never even been notified about the fact that a sterilization was performed! Although the Assembly Public Safety Committee approved the bill, the appropriations committee would not even consider the budget request which would be necessary to provide funding for the compensation program. The sponsoring groups are now working to pressure Governor Newsom to include funds for the compensation program in his 2021 budget.

At the same time, a powerful new film documenting the history of forced sterilization in CA women’s prisons premiered in theaters across the country. Belly of the Beast, directed by Erika Cohn, follows Kelli Dillon, a survivor of forced sterilization at VSPW, and radical lawyer Cynthia Chandler, a co-founder of Justice Now, as they seek to uncover a pattern of forced sterilizations. The film includes compelling footage inside the prisons, interviews with prison doctors and the 2014 legislative victory when SB 1135 was passed that prohibits sterilization inside prisons for the purpose of birth control.

Given the recent exposures at Irwin and the widespread distribution of Belly of the Beast, we are hopeful that we will develop new strategies to win reparations and notification for survivors of sterilization in CA women’s prisons.

If you have experienced reproductive abuses that could be connected to involuntary sterilization while in CDCr custody or in another prison or jail, please write The Fire Inside, Attn: Reproductive Justice, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608. Please describe what happened, when this occurred and whether you filed a grievance about the incident.
25 Years Strong

I want people to know that CCWP advocates with deep passion for all prisoners. I feel genuine love from the CCWP volunteers. CCWP is one of the reasons I began to change. Knowing there are people out there who care enough to fight for me gave me hope.

Mara Plascencia

CCWP allows our silent voices to be heard. It has been the most positive outlet in my life since the day I met them. They keep me focused and uplifted.

Caring collectively means that no one is left out, left behind or forgotten about. CCWP has cared for me. When we meet, which has been consistently every 6-8 weeks, I’m allowed to be open and honest about my life without judgement. They’ve been there when I needed help contacting my family, they’ve helped me with some legal situations, they help keep me focused by sending me educational books and keeping in contact with me through mail. The CCWP organization really is a huge part of my life. They give me hope for justice and faith for freedom. I wish to become a part of the organization upon my release.

Kelly Vaughn

CCWP makes you feel loved. It shows in the research they do, the fight for your freedom, your health and educating lawmakers, the public, and so on. CCWP has helped me in many ways. For instance, I had knots on my wrist, and numbness in my hands. I was denied proper medical attention. CCWP wrote a letter to the Chief Medical Officer and the Warden, and I finally got the proper medical attention. I was diagnosed with “Raynaud’s Phenom,” an artery disease. So with the help of CCWP now they’re taking it seriously.

Tracee Ward

Continued on p. 9
I first read a copy of “The Fire Inside” in 2010 at VSPW (yeah, when it was still open for women). That was my first year in prison. That newsletter gave me hope when I was feeling hopeless, facing a 26 year sentence. I felt a great deal of shame, low self-esteem, and traumatic pain. I found myself engulfed in deep grief, and surrounded by many other women—fellow peers, especially long-termers and lifers and LWOPs, who were also grieving in the same way. Every issue of this newsletter has helped me feel less isolated and more hopeful and worthy to live on as I heal, change, grow, and transform. I am grateful for every issue for these last ten years. Thank you CCWP volunteers, “Fire Inside” editors and producers.

Anonymous

It’s been a long rough journey. I was lost and gave up on hope. CCWP gave me hope and inspiration to not give up, to keep fighting and when I still felt weak, showed me I am not alone. They found the positive out of my negative and helped me move forward. I wouldn’t have made it this far without God or CCWP. Connecting with them was one of my greatest choices with no regrets.

These total strangers take their personal time to help us when the state has marked “no ones,” directed by only a number. CCWP gave me the inspiration to not forget I am human, and people do care. I hope I can help others to see they are not alone either.

Alicia Meza

CCWP is an organization of people who truly care. They are the voice of the incarcerated and oppressed. They push limits and rearrange boundaries for a population that was once forgotten behind these walls. Because of CCWP’s tireless commitment, advocacy and inextinguishable faith—doors have opened and life has been renewed!

Caring collectively parallels the saying, “it takes a village,” and “team work makes the dream work.” CCWP’s actions—rallies, legal work, visits, etc—are what makes their motto more than words. The fact that strangers—with lives of their own—care enough to invest their time, money, and busy schedules to people they’ve never met—whose cause was deemed “lost”—is priceless! CCWP is the prime example of love in action... an unselfish, unconditional love for humanity. Knowing that someone believes in me inspires me to excel, pay it forward, and be the best I can be.

Tamara Hinkle

Back in 2012, I started getting visits. At that time in my life I needed visits. Someone who loved and cared about me gave my name to CCWP. I was not aware of it and today I’m grateful. I’m still involved.

I want people to know that CCWP has a history of being loving friends, people who care. CCWP has helped me embrace opportunities that are important for my future. CCWP has helped me accept why I’m here. It helps me with my anxieties and mistakes I’ve made. Thank you CCWP, happy anniversary!

Debbie Lowe

Continued on p. 14
The statewide campaign to stop CDCr to ICE transfers continues, even as the Vision Act legislation did not make it through committee in the 2020 legislative session. With leadership from Asian Americans Advancing Justice/Asian Law Caucus (AAAJ/ALC), a statewide coalition continues to grow stronger and broader. Education, social media and direct action campaigns have allowed more people to join in opposing the injustice of endless incarceration for many who came to the US as children—first confined in CDCr, and then snatched by ICE even after they have served their time.

There have been some important victories since Chanthon Bun was released back to his family in June 2020 (FI#61). On Sept. 11, 2020, Nayeli Pena Arce, walked out of CIW after 6 years, returning home to her family and community. And in another victory, Rot Mythong was freed on bond from Adelanto Immigration Detention Center on Sept. 8, 2020. Rot, a survivor of two rounds of cancer during his 29 years of incarceration in CDCr, is now applying for a pardon from Gov. Newsom which will allow him to permanently stay in the US which has been his home since he was 5 years old.

While we celebrate these victories, we are angry that so many immigrants being released from CDCr are still handed over to ICE. This includes highly respected CCWP member Patricia Waller and community member Tien Pham. Both were handed over to ICE by CDCr after earning their paroles in August 2020. Patti and Tien were shipped to ICE detention centers in Colorado, far from families and friends, and both are currently fighting deportation orders.

California is a sanctuary state. The governor has it in his power to issue an executive order to STOP all transfers from CDCr to ICE. The work of the statewide coalition will continue to grow into the next year. For more info and to join the work, write to: Ny Nourn, 55 Columbus Avenue, SF, CA 94111; or email: nyn@advancingjusticealc.org

Breakin’:
Nayeli Pena Arce is free!

Community groups thank Gov. Newsom for stopping the transfer of Nayeli to ICE upon her release from state prison, and call for statewide suspension of ICE transfers. #StopICEtransfers

Rot Mythong comes home!
Root & Rebound provides legal advice and direct support to people working through barriers related to their record or prior system involvement.

We operate a statewide Reentry Legal Hotline every Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM open to anyone in California with legal questions about the rights of people with criminal records. Call the hotline any Friday at 510-279-4662.

Note: We accept collect calls from currently incarcerated people.

In Fresno, we established the Fresno Reentry Women’s Employment Initiative (FRWEI) program to support women, trans women, and gender non-conforming folks returning home to the Central Valley, from Kern to Merced County. Our office staffs an on-site Attorney, a Social Services Manager, and a Policy Advocate and Economic Security Coach to support with reentry needs. For more information call: 510-279-4662.

We also have offices in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and support tribal communities near the Oregon border. If you or a loved one cannot call or go online, please write to us at:

Root & Rebound, 1730 Franklin Street, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.

CCWF/CIW Reading Group

Faculty and students from UC Davis African American Studies Department -- some of whom have imprisoned friends, family, and loves ones -- are inviting people at CCWF and CIW to participate in a study group starting in January 2021. We plan to read open letters by people like Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King, James Baldwin, Assata Shakur, Angela Davis, Imani Perry, and The Fire Inside contributors like Paula Foster Stallworth. Like James Baldwin’s The Fire Next Time and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Letter from Birmingham Jail, open letters have been used to call people to action, demand justice, share love, build solidarity, and create collective care. We plan to write and exchange letters with one another in the study group, and perhaps publish some of them in various places. The study group will be co-coordinated by Benjamin Weber at UC Davis and CCWP member Rachel Leah Klein at USC. If you are interested, please send your contact info to: Benjamin Weber, Department of African American Studies, 2223 Hart Hall, UC Davis, One Shields Ave. Davis, CA 95616. bdweber@ucdavis.edu.
Celebrating Releases

Candace Lewis with her mother and son

Monroe County District Attorney Attempts to Reincarcerate a Respected Elder [recovering from COVID-19]
Jalil Muntaqim on Fabricated Charges

Tara with Hafsah and Chocolate

Valerie Bolden, outside the fence

Rosemary Dyer and Connie Keel
Precious Releases

8/2020: Candace Lewis, released on a successful 1437 petition
9/2020: Valerie Bolden, free in southern CA.
9/2020: Sara Mariposa Fonseca, after 18 years in prison
9/2020: Yannick Carraway, after 16 years in prison
10/2020: Yvette Chocolate Brown, released on a successful 1170 (d)1 resentencing petition (see interview on p.3).
10/2020: Jalil Muntaquin, released after nearly 50 years in prison (he went in at age 19). However, on 10/30/20, Jalil was charged with ‘voter fraud’ for allegedly filling out a voter registration form as part of a packet of Medicare information that he had to complete. He was notified by the Voting Registrar afterwards that he was ineligible to vote and that should have been the end of it. However, the chair of the local Rochester, NY Republican Party started a petition to prosecute him and the D.A filed charges. Since that time, Jalil has received a routine conditional pardon from Governor Cuomo which restores his right to vote while on parole. It is unclear whether this development will impact his court case. Jalil is currently out of prison and his wide network of supporters are mobilizing to fight these fabricated charges and keep him free.

Mourning Our Losses

Michelle Eve Kent, aka Sleepy, died Sept 18, 2020, after doing 24 years and 7 months. She was scheduled for release by Dec. 2020 but died suddenly of a heart attack. She is deeply missed.
We want people to know that we are not alone, abandoned—we feel that there’s a way to get our freedom. Thank you for compassion toward any human being in need. “Caring collectively” means we help each other. We put our efforts, our ideas, our thoughts, our compassion, our wisdom together, to find the way for many of us. Gathered together, to support each other. CCWP’s work has been a great support and hope for me.

Contreras

The fight for LWOPs is for all females and males. CCWP thinks of the outcome for everyone, instead of an individual. What’s important... [is] being included and having a voice [to express] what women go through.

Amy Moss

The fact that CCWP asks us who are incarcerated about which goals to pursue in the future is incredibly meaningful. No one presumes to know what our struggles are.

There is an adage that we can accomplish more together than we can apart, and that is true with caring as well—we can care more effectively and accomplish more collectively than if it is just one or two people on their own. One story I believe showcases CCWP’s caring collectively is The Living Chance interviews that Adrienne conducted years ago. I was able to talk about me and the fact that I do a tremendous amount within the institution—which is all for the sake of doing what I believe is right, or helping someone else, and not for the benefit of parole hearings since I do not (yet) have a date to appear before them.

Amber Bray
Please send us your thoughts, poetry, artwork and/or photographs for our next issue of *The Fire Inside*. We will not use your name unless you check the box below:

☐ I want my name to appear in the newsletter

Name: __________________________________________________________

Mail to: _________________________________________________________

☐ I would like to get the next issue of *The Fire Inside*
Come work with us!

CCWP SF Bay Area
4400 Market St.
Oakland, CA 94608

(415) 255-7036 x4
www.womenprisoners.org
info@womenprisoners.org

CCWP Los Angeles
PO Box 291585
LA, CA 90029

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

Funded in part by: Alciebie Alliance, Ben & Jerry’s Foundation, Circle for Justice Innovations–Leadership Circle, Quest 4 Democracy, #FreeHer, & SOS Grants, East Bay Community Fund, Groundswell, Heising-Simons, Horizons, Libra, Lloyd Foundation, Mary's Pence, Meadow Fund, Open Society Foundation, Race, Gender and Human Rights Fund, SF Foundation, Unitarian Universalists, Urgent Action Fund, Women’s Catalytic Fund

Yes, I want to support folks in women’s prisons!

☐ Please contact me to volunteer
☐ Enclosed is $25 contribution to help send a newsletter subscription to a person in women’s prison
☐ Enclosed is my contribution of $ __________

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone/email: _______________________________________

Please make checks payable to: CCWP/LSPC, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608