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NOW - Call for Presentations Opens

February 15, 2015 - Early Bird Registration
Begins



2015
MAY 6TH - 8TH
Dallas, Texas



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS FOR 2015 PRISONER'S FAMILY CONFERENCE



The 7th Annual National Prisoner's Family Conference will be held May 6th through 8th, 2015 at the Night Hotel in North Dallas.

The Call for Presentations is now open.

The conference Steering Committee seeks dynamic and engaging presentations specifically related to the conference tracks:

- ***Prisoner's Family Perspective*** - personal issues specific and relevant to the prisoner and returning prisoner and their family
- ***Community Perspective*** - effective programs, organizations and resources addressing critical needs of the prison family from arrest through incarceration, up to and including reintegration.
- ***Legal/Criminal Justice Perspective*** - relevant legal issues and building cooperative relations with system representatives that may minimize trauma for the prison family.
- ***Faith-Based Perspective*** - what is working; what is not and

what more can be done to spiritually ground and sustain all members of the prison family during and following incarceration.

- **Health Perspective (Mental & Physical)** - issues related to the overall health of prisoners and family members and sensitizing criminal justice and mental health providers to the needs of prisoners and their families.
- **Advocacy and Organizing** - action to bring about positive change to reduce trauma and improve the quality of life for the entire prison family.
- **Special Issues** - promoting positive outcomes for the prisoner/returning prisoner and their family. (Some previously presented topics include: victims of crimes; addiction recovery; sex offenders; gang involvement; female offenders; snitches and organizational issues such as fundraising; marketing; use of social media, etc.)



For information on submitting presentations, please visit the [Request for Presentations page on the conference website.](#)

Deadline for Submissions: November 30, 2014

Prisoners' Fine Art & Creative Writing

Announcing 2015 Conference Competition



Exceptional talent is behind bars. Our hope is to encourage prisoners to refine their skills and become recognized for the gifts they possess. To this end, the 2015 conference will feature both prisoners' fine art and creative writing.

It takes time to create. So, it's not too early to tell prison artists and writers to sharpen their pencils and create their submissions for the 2015 National Prisoner's Family Conference Art & Writing Contests!

Small Fine Art Pieces - Contest, Show & Sale

Drawings no larger than 24" x 24" in graphite, pen, pencil, colored pencil, mixed media.

Prizes:

1st Place - \$100 cash prize

2nd Place - \$75 cash prize

3rd Place - \$50 cash prize

Submissions will be on display and available for silent auction/sale at the conference.

Submission Deadline: March 31, 2015

Creative Writing Contest & Publication - Short Stories, Poetry

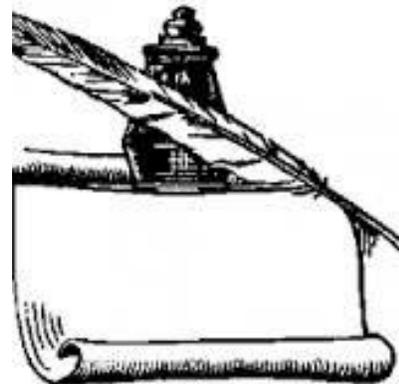
Prizes:

1st Place - \$100 cash prize

2nd Place - \$75 cash prize

3rd Place - \$50 cash prize

Additionally, winning submissions, as well as honorable mentions will be published and available for purchase at the conference.



Submission Deadline: March 31, 2015

For submission guidelines, e-mail info@prisonersfamilyconference.org

Or write:

Contest Rules

Prisoner's Family Conference

Community Solutions

2200 N. Yarbrough, B245

El Paso, TX 79925

***What the Prisoner's Family Conference
means to me.***



As a first time conference-goer this year, it was very interesting and enlightening. I felt like we were all family and could honestly share what our feelings were as individuals due to having a loved one or a friend who's incarcerated; or having a loved one or a friend who's now been released from the correctional system.

I believe that an individual who comes to the conference will leave with tools to guide them in their journey with the prison system in order to help one's family members or a friend who might find themselves in the correctional facilities around the United States.

Rita Kerwin

Board Member of Citizens for Prison Reform

2015 Prisoner's Family Conference Steering Committee Member

Submissions Invited

Tell us what is happening with you, your family and your community. Invite prisoners to submit articles and creative writing, too.

E-mail submissions to info@prisonersfamilyconference.org by the 20th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

***August's MYSTERY Conference Attendee:
No One Guessed Correctly - "Contest" Still Open
Who had this visitor?***



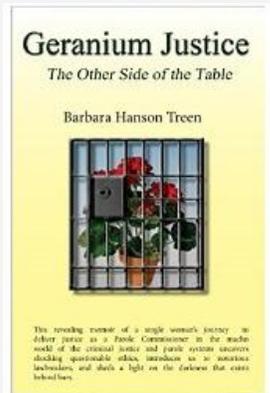
Clue: *This was a recent visitor at the home of a previous conference keynote.*

Still a chance for YOU to get 10% off on your conference registration!!!

Can you guess who welcomed this rather serious looking guest into their foyer, and even had the presence of mind to whip out their cell phone and take this picture?

The first one to e-mail the right answer will receive 10% off their 2015 conference registration fee.

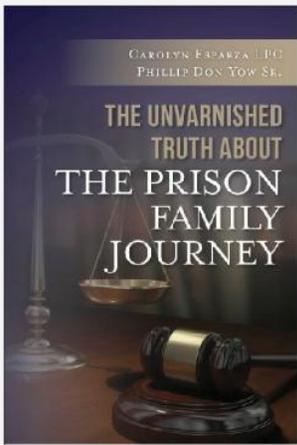
PRISONER'S FAMILY CONFERENCE **READING CORNER**



Recommended Reading - submitted by Barbara Allan

This revealing memoir of a single woman's journey to deliver justice as a Parole Commissioner in the macho world of the criminal justice and parole systems uncovers shocking questionable ethics, introduces us to notorious lawbreakers, and sheds her light on the darkness that exists behind bars. [Find Geranium Justice here.](#)

A Powerful Road Map for The Entire Prison Family Journey



Recent comment:

"Honest information and I'd know - I'm a former inmate!"

"Every choice has a consequence. And while many of us might have as a consequence of our actions, incarceration in our past or future...the reality is the journey impacts more than the offender. This book offers a realistic view of the journey that so many families take as their loved one faces or is imprisoned. This is a well written masterpiece that sheds true light on a tragic issue that is typically

swept under the rug never to be discussed."

~ Chuck Gallagher

The Prison Family Journey is being praised as a bold, yet honest and practical guide for navigating the legal and emotional aspects of the challenging journey. The book benefits those working with the prison family as much as it does the

members of prison families.

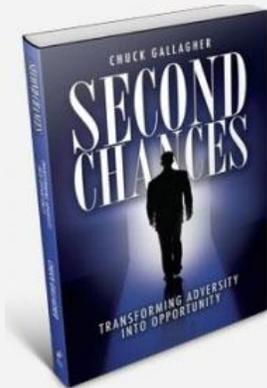
How One Family Overcame Impossible Odds to Save Itself



An engaging narrative and a blueprint for family success. The book begins with the Tijerina family sharing how they beat impossible odds to thrive throughout Ron's wrongful incarceration. The Tijerinas compellingly share 5 principles that enabled them to overcome unimaginable obstacles in order to help their readers build strong, resilient families like theirs.

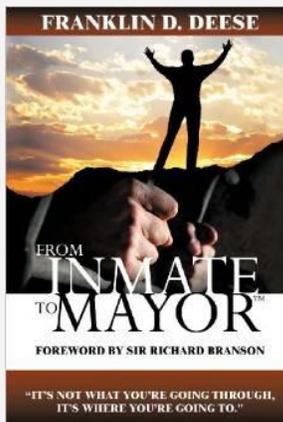
The Tijerinas are co-directors of [The Ridge Project](#), based in Ohio. They have served as keynote speakers at the last two Prisoner's Family Conferences. For more information on their book, [click here](#).

23 Steps that Changed a Man's Life



In the prime of life Chuck Gallagher made some bad career choices that landed him behind bars. In this deeply personal and compelling book, he comes clean about his life-changing experience-and it might just change your life, too. Today Chuck Gallagher is an internationally recognized motivational speaker. He has been a keynote at several Prisoner's Family Conferences. His interactive approach and keen wit are definitely motivating and always appreciated. To learn more about Chuck and his book, Second Chances, [visit his website](#).

Moving Mountains



Convicted for robbery, Franklin Deese was ironically sentenced to a system designed to rob a person of all future potential. In 1989 he was paroled into society with the clothes on his back and \$30.00 in his pockets; facing mountains that can only be imagined. Through perseverance and by applying the powerful lessons that he now outlines in his best-selling book ["From Inmate To Mayor,"](#) Deese has proven that there is no mountain too high to overcome.

Today Deese is the only African American in the Nation to serve over

10 years in the prison system and then be elected mayor in the same city. Mayor Deese is truly a Mountain Mover.

**Tell us of other excellent resources for prison families.
We will highlight them in future newsletters.**

Share the Newsletter

Tell Others about the Conference

2015 Conference STEERING COMMITTEE

Anita Perry - Virginia

Ann Edenfield Sweet - New Mexico

Barbara Allan - New York

Catherine Hannon - Florida

James (Jim) Prager - Ohio

Kayla Victor - Washington

Kimberly Castle Dearman -
Mississippi

Michelle Moore - Arkansas

Rita Kerwin - Michigan

Roger Hollar - Texas

Carolyn Esparza - Texas
Conference Chair

Contact: **Carolyn Esparza, LPC**
Conference Chair
E-mail: info@prisonersfamilyconference.org
Phone: 915-861-7733

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