



ISSUE NO. 37  
OCTOBER 2021

# THE DRUM

## IN THIS ISSUE

GIVE BACK, GET BETTER  
EVENT REFLECTIONS  
CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT  
COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS  
READ WATCH LISTEN  
RESOURCE OF THE MONTH  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE ALBA PROJECT: SELF CARE AND TALKING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Sunday, October 24th 2:00pm-4:00pm, virtual

**Register: email [albaproject@umich.edu](mailto:albaproject@umich.edu) or fill out this google form <https://forms.gle/VeoVH1S4reJY3xHN6>**

The University of Michigan student group the Alba Project is excited to announce their first workshop on mental health and self care for returning citizens.

Students with the Alba Project extend their hands to returning citizens with a goal of bridging gaps between higher education and individuals impacted by incarceration.

### SADO REENTRY WORKSHOP-GRATITUDE

Monday, November 1st 6:00pm-7:30pm

**Register: [sado.org/go/gratitude](https://sado.org/go/gratitude)**

San Diego public defender Tatiana Kline will facilitate a conversation about practicing gratitude as it relates to positive psychology and reducing symptoms of depression. What impact can practicing gratitude have on your mental health? Join us to find out.

Questions? Reach out to SADO Reentry at [reentry@sado.org](mailto:reentry@sado.org).

### 2021 INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGY CONFERENCE

Friday, November 5th, 9am-5pm, virtual

**Register:**

**<https://ipsonet.org/conferences/crim-conf/>**

The purpose of this event is to promote interdisciplinary dialogue about topics related to criminology in its broadest context, including causes, consequences both on a micro and macro level, control, and prevention. The event brings together academics, policymakers, NGOs, business and social leaders from a variety of backgrounds, for discussion about issues.

## GIVE BACK, GET BETTER

This month SADO Reentry team members, community leaders, and criminal justice reform advocates were invited to participate in the Better Together initiative organized by Darryl Woods and Mitch Albom of Say Detroit, and Growth Works. All guests were met with feelings of nostalgia while walking through the halls of a local high school watching students race to beat the bell, laugh with friends against the school lockers, and while listening to the morning announcements over the loud speaker. Presenters included 5 former juvenile lifers who got to share their experience, strength, and hope with students encouraging them to take advantage of their education, never give up on themselves, and to reach out for help when they don't feel heard. But the event didn't end with stories and applause. Next we headed to the courtyard for a cook out where volunteers joined with students in playing yard games and bonded over life's joys and challenges. Unbeknown to students, some of the community leaders were police officers dressed in plain clothing. To say the least, many students were shocked to find out they were playing yard games, conversing, and eating lunch with "undercover cops". No doubt, it can be difficult to get teenagers to talk but with this surprise a conversation about police and justice in America unraveled quickly. The purpose of the event wasn't to convince youth that all police are great, it was a lesson that all people are human, and that good and bad can be found no matter what uniform someone puts on or life experience they carry. So before you judge someone who has committed a crime, or an officer trying to prevent crime, ask yourself why...and dig a little deeper. Because in just one morning a group of people from all different walks of life were able to have a REAL conversation, show respect, and learn from each others differences. Most importantly, it was a reminder that youth are precious, courageous, and have so much to share when given the space to be heard.



# 31 STATES AND COUNTING: EVENT REFLECTIONS

Earlier this month Safe and Just Michigan, the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, and the Responsible Business Initiative sponsored an event at the Capital Building to talk about the importance of abolishing life without parole sentencing for juveniles. According to the Sentencing Project, the United States is the only country in the world that sentences people to life without parole for crimes committed before the age of 18, and Michigan is one of 19 states yet to abolish this sentence. Leading the way to change this policy are the people most impacted--adults who as teenagers were condemned to die in prison or as they've been labeled "juvenile lifers." Speakers included SADO Reentry Specialist and ICAN ( Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network) member Jose Burgos, and Safe and Just Michigan Community Engagement Specialist Ronnie Waters. And many other leaders impacted by this legislation attended proudly showing their support and conversing with legislatures. The event also highlighted the positive impact formerly incarcerated persons have on the economy and in their communities, and showed why it is an enormous waste of the state budget to keep someone incarcerated for decades. The truth is people getting out of prison need and are deserving of good paying jobs at workplaces that support them. Companies who discriminate based on criminal record are missing out on so much more than just a hard worker. Hiring formerly incarcerated, ex-cons, returning citizens, juvenile lifers, (whatever the label) is an opportunity to make an impact by improving local economies, decreasing poverty, diversifying perspectives across multiple areas of business, and potentially making a good friend.



## MOTHERS ARE PRICELESS

*Submission By Christopher Powell*



In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month, this drawing is a reminder of how special moms are and the sacrifices they make everyday to care for their children and families. To any person or family who has battled breast cancer, we support you and thank you for showing us what it means to persist.

More information about Breast Cancer Awareness month, paths to donate, and resources can be found here:

[nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month](https://nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month)





# CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT



## KEVIN COTTINGHAM

### Came Home

April 14th, 2021

### Hometown

Pontiac, MI

### Hobbies and Interests

Art

### Successes After Incarceration

Learning how to trust again and embracing my reentry back into society.

### Struggles After Incarceration

Learning how to use credit card and balance bank book.

### Message to the Community

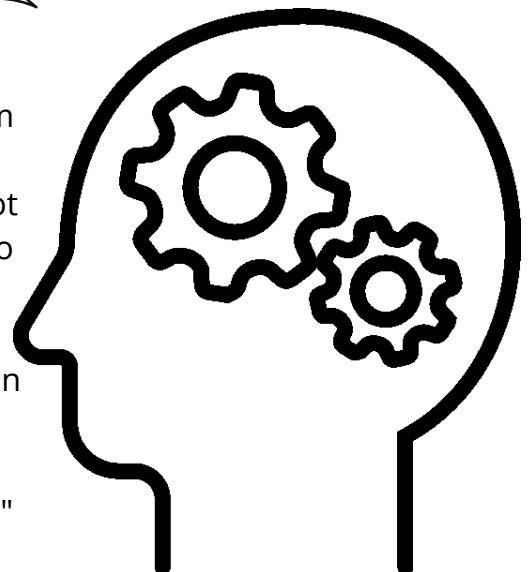
There are those of us who are coming home from incarceration and we are your neighbors, not criminals. Example, if I came home after serving decades of incarceration and I buy a house next door to you and fixed it up and lived in it for ten years without you knowing that I came from prison it would be okay, but the moment you find out that I was incarcerated your thoughts about me change when they shouldn't. I served my time, I am a tax paying citizen so therefore I am not a criminal, I am YOUR NEIGHBOR!



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?" Actually who are you not to be? You are a child of God. You playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

-Marianne Williamson, A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of "A Course in Miracles"



# MASTERS ESSAY: A SERIES

## CHAPTER 4 FAMILY REUNIFICATION *Submission By Timothy Greer*

Visher and Travis (2011) noted that “[f]amily members provide critical support to men and women after their release from prison” (p. 108S). Once released from prison, the ex-prisoner parent will often take on the responsibility of reestablishing his or her parental role in the lives of their children. However, the ex-prisoner may also have other responsibilities that command his or her immediate attention. For example, it may fall on this person to find adequate employment and housing. Additionally, the ex-prisoner must now present himself or herself as a positive role model to the children. If he or she fails to do so, as noted by Petersilia (2001), their children are “five times more likely to serve time in prison than children whose parents were not incarcerated” (p. 5). Thus, history will repeat itself in the form of offending and imprisonment being passed from one generation to the next.

Another problem that an ex-prisoner must address immediately is the possibility of family discord, particularly revolving around financial issues. According to Travis (2005), at least 60 percent of male prisoners reported they were employed full-time prior to their incarceration (p. 126). Therefore, when “the honeymoon is over,” many immediate family members, particularly wives or girlfriends, expect the ex-prisoner to return to his role as the breadwinner of the family. This can create a stressful situation for all members of the family. Thus, lack of income can not only create longstanding family disruption, it can also lead to the ex-prisoner becoming involved in criminal activity in order to support the family. This may play a major role in the fact that, according to Visher and Travis (2011), “[n]early two thirds of released prisoners will be rearrested and more than half will be reincarcerated within 3 years” (p. 104S). With legitimate employment opportunities severely limited, the underground economy offers promises of a quick financial fix, forcing many ex-prisoners to take certain risks that may jeopardize their freedom.

Furthermore, past incarceration(s) can also lead to issues involving child support, where the noncustodial-ex-prisoner parent can face extreme financial hardship because of lack of employment, and arrearages that could accumulate to thousands of dollars. Such a circumstance will often lead to family discord, something that betrays the notion of family reunification as a supposed objective of criminal justice practitioners. Finally, past incarceration(s) can also lead to the termination of former custodial and/or non-custodial ex-prisoner’s parental rights. For instance, in one of the MLS cases in the prologue of this essay, the client was at risk of losing her parental rights after an absence in her children’s lives for a period of two years or more due to her incarceration.

Thus, there are a myriad of barriers not only to successfully reintegrating an ex-prisoner into society, but also to applying this concept to include the ex-offender’s family. These barriers can be based on lack of employment or public benefits to provide a financial means to sustain his or her family. They can also negatively impact the ex-prisoner in the realm of securing and/or maintaining shelter for his or her family. Finally, family reunification may be strained or thwarted because of child support and parental rights termination issues. As noted in earlier, such issues do not adversely impact the family alone. That is to say, these families are not living in a vacuum; they are a part of the community, which is a part of a wider society – no matter how socio-economically and politically isolated they are from it.

Do you have a message you'd like to send to the community? We would love to share it! Please send any written pieces, artwork or images to [reentry@sado.org](mailto:reentry@sado.org) to be featured in an upcoming Drum!



# TEAM HIGHLIGHTS FROM RALLY IN SUPPORT OF SECOND CHANCE LEGISLATION



Featured SADOites from left to right: Top: Ashley Craythorne, Jessica Newton, Erin Bartels, and Jessica Zimbelman. Bottom: Jose Burgos, Jessica Newton, Frank Rodriguez, Jonathan Sacks, and Kimberley Woodson

## READ

### UNTAPPED TALENT BY JEFFREY D. KORZENIK



Need a reason to hire people with a criminal record? This book explains why it is in your company's best interest and how not employing persons with a criminal record is, counter to what you may think, harmful to your community.

## WATCH



### THE MARSHALL PROJECT'S FILM COLLECTIONS

"Since 2014, The Marshall Project has been curating some of the best criminal justice reporting from around the web. In these records you will find the most recent and the most authoritative articles on the topics, people and events that are shaping the criminal justice conversation. The Marshall Project does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of reports other than its own." Follow this link on the Marshall Project's website for a collection of films and documentaries  
[themarshallproject.org/records/1964-film](http://themarshallproject.org/records/1964-film)

## LISTEN



### THE BIGGER YARD HOSTED BY EXONEREE MARVIN COTTON JR.

The Bigger Yard is a radio show that promotes real issues and real talk. The show premiered with guest speaker and former Detroit, MI mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Tune in at the following link every Friday at 4pm to listen to community leaders discuss tough issues.

[www.totalentradio.com/](http://www.totalentradio.com/)

**AND THE RESOURCE  
OF THE MONTH GOES  
TO.....**



Growth Works is an organization in Wayne county providing youth in the juvenile justice system with behavioral health, peer recovery, and substance use treatment. They have partnerships with local school districts, community leaders, and court systems to reach out to youth in the community who may not know how to reach out for themselves yet. This month they brought volunteers to a local high school to talk with teenagers about challenges they may be facing while coming back to in person class after 18 months.

We thank Growth Works for looking after young people and leading by example to show how much they care.

**Thank  
you!**

**SAFE AND JUST MICHIGAN**

To good food and better company! Thank you Safe and Just Michigan for putting on a great annual dinner. It was a pleasure to be in person and connect with many people working collectively to free people from the burden of having a criminal record, and bring more people home.



*SADOites from left to right: Jose Burgos, Allison Gorine, Jonathan Sacks, and Lorenzo Harrell*





# EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

---

## CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hiring immediately, felony friendly no matter the convictions, parole eligibility flexible. Transportation to work site from central location.

**Contact** SADO Reentry or email Maggie Hall at [mhall@ceoworks.org](mailto:mhall@ceoworks.org)

7310 Woodward Ave #701b  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-752-0768

## BRIDGEWATER INTERIORS: MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Bridgewater Interiors is a Black owned automotive interior design company that hires returning citizens. They have locations in Detroit, Lansing, and Warren Michigan.

**Visit** [bridgewater-interiors.com](http://bridgewater-interiors.com) to learn more about the company and find available job opportunities.

## FAURECIA : MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Faurecia is a global automotive supplier. They have plants in Saline, Sterling Heights, Auburn Hills, and Highland Park, and hire returning citizens.

**Visit** <https://careers.faurecia.com/> for full job description and how to apply

## SAFE AND JUST MICHIGAN: SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

The community Social Media Specialist is responsible administering existing and future social media accounts in a cohesive way that reflects our organizational goals, values, perspective, and brand. This work includes creating original text and video content, managing posts, and responding to followers.

**Visit:** [www.safeandjustmi.org/about/staff/](http://www.safeandjustmi.org/about/staff/) and find the link to the job posting at the bottom of the page to apply

## PLUM MARKET: ANN ARBOR, MI

Plum Market hires returning citizens and offers many on the job "perks" to support their staff such as paid time off for ALL employees, great retirement and medical benefits for ALL employees, and store discounts!

**Visit:** [www.plummarket.com/careers](http://www.plummarket.com/careers) to check out available positions and apply

## MAGNA LIGHTING

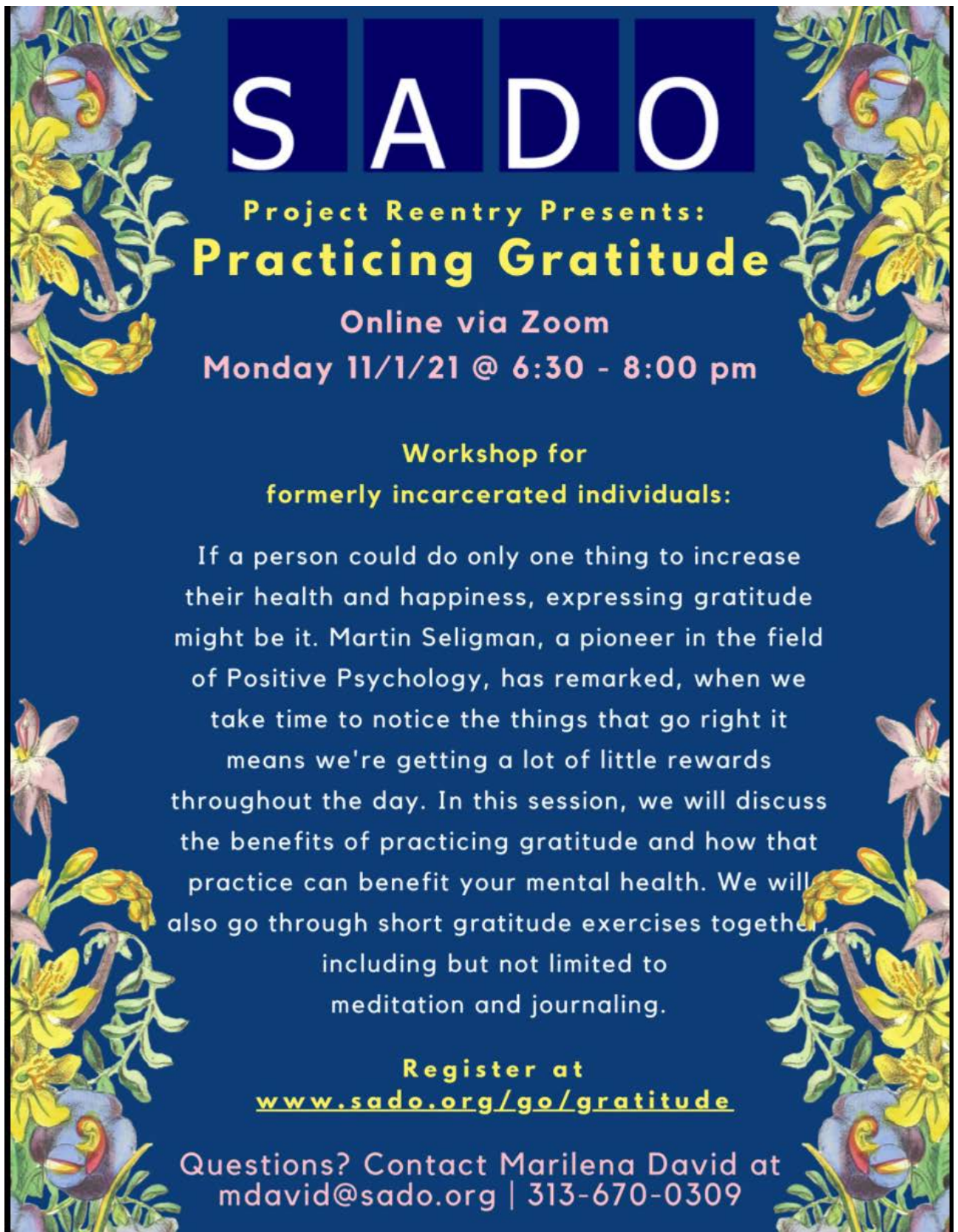
Magna lighting is a global manufacturing company with factories throughout Michigan including Plymouth, Shelby, Sterling Heights, and Hyland Park. They offer competitive wages and benefits.

**Visit** [magna.com](http://magna.com) to learn more about the company and available find available job openings near you

---

**FOR ASSISTANCE APPLYING TO JOBS OR TO BE CONNECTED TO EVENTS AND RESOURCES IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE REACH OUT TO PROJECT REENTRY.**

## UP NEXT! PROJECT REENTRY NOVEMBER 2021 WORKSHOP

The poster has a dark blue background with a decorative border of yellow and pink flowers. At the top, the letters 'SADO' are in large white font. Below it, 'Project Reentry Presents:' is in small yellow font, followed by 'Practicing Gratitude' in large yellow font. The date and time 'Monday 11/1/21 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm' are in pink font. The target audience 'Workshop for formerly incarcerated individuals:' is in yellow font. A paragraph of white text describes the workshop's focus on gratitude. The registration link 'www.sado.org/go/gratitude' is in yellow font. Contact information for Marilena David is at the bottom in pink font.

**SADO**

Project Reentry Presents:  
**Practicing Gratitude**

Online via Zoom  
Monday 11/1/21 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**Workshop for  
formerly incarcerated individuals:**

If a person could do only one thing to increase their health and happiness, expressing gratitude might be it. Martin Seligman, a pioneer in the field of Positive Psychology, has remarked, when we take time to notice the things that go right it means we're getting a lot of little rewards throughout the day. In this session, we will discuss the benefits of practicing gratitude and how that practice can benefit your mental health. We will also go through short gratitude exercises together, including but not limited to meditation and journaling.

**Register at  
[www.sado.org/go/gratitude](http://www.sado.org/go/gratitude)**

Questions? Contact Marilena David at  
[mdavid@sado.org](mailto:mdavid@sado.org) | 313-670-0309

To see past versions of The Drum, visit  
**[www.sado.org/go/drum](http://www.sado.org/go/drum)**  
Follow SADO on Facebook and Twitter!  
[@sadoreentry](#) and [@sadowich](#)

Have QUESTIONS OR something to  
contribute?  
**Email [reentry@sado.org](mailto:reentry@sado.org)**  
**313-256-9833**