This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul Bareno of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “Omar & Pete” that premieres on September 13th, 2005 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

Omar and Pete are determined to change their lives. Both have been in and out of prison for more than 30 years—never out longer than six months. This intimate and penetrating film follows these two longtime African-American friends after what they hope will be their final release. Their lives take divergent paths in their native Baltimore as one wrestles with addiction and fear while the other finds success and freedom through helping others. With extraordinary cooperation from Maryland’s innovative reentry programs—many run by former drug addicts and convicts themselves—“Omar & Pete” also provides a rare glimpse into an intense and very personal web of support.

ADULT NONFICTION


Cook, John Raymond. Asphalt Justice: A Critique of the Criminal Justice System in America. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2001. Cook advocates for a transformation of America’s prisons to focus on changing prisoner behavior through treatment and rehabilitation. He believes the current “get tough” approach postpones dealing with their problems and thus is detrimental to society in the long-term.

Davis, Mike. 9 to 5 Beats 10 to Life: How to (Re)enter Society. Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association, 1996. A guide for adult offenders on re-entering society. Includes tips on employment, careers, education, housing, healthcare and community resources.

Farabee, David. Rethinking Rehabilitation: Why Can’t We Reform Our Criminals. Washington D.C.: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 2005. Research shows that most rehabilitation programs have little or no effect on recidivism. Farabee examines the most popular of these programs and argues that traditional methods of deterrence (for example, closer monitoring of parolees and swift application of sanctions) are more effective and humane than progressive strategies that are increasingly popular today.


Gonnerman, Jennifer. Life on the Outside: the Prison Odyssey of Elaine Bartlett. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2004. Tells the true story of a woman who spent 16 years in jail for selling drugs. Upon her release, she had no money, no job, no home and four children living in a housing project in New York City. Through Bartlett’s story, Gonnerman looks at the challenges facing offenders as they re-enter society, calling attention to the lack of preparation they receive while still in prison.

Harris, Othello and Robin Miller. (Ed.). Impacts of Incarceration on the African American Family. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2003. In the U.S., there is an alarmingly high percentage of African-American men who are incarcerated, on probation or on parole. This volume looks at the effect this has had on these offenders’ families.


Jones, Louis. I Need a J-O-B!: The Ex-Offender’s Job Search Manual. Washington D.C.: Conquest Books, 2003. Offers practical advice, such as, how to beat frustration, organizing for a job search, and even where to look for available positions, in order to help ex-offenders overcome the obstacles to steady employment.

Kunjufu, Jawanza. State of Emergency: We Must Save African-American Males. Chicago, IL: African American Images, 2001. Looks at the daily challenges faced by African-American men and condemns the drug industry and the education and penal systems for their part in this. Hope is offered by examples of institutions that have successfully developed African American men.


inmates on dealing with the particular challenges they face, such as, dietary rules, required prayer time, observance of Ramadan, and other issues.


Travis, Jeremy. But They All Come Back: Rethinking Prisoner Reentry. Washington D.C.: Urban Institute Press, 2005. Travis explores the issues facing inmates as they are released from prison and proposes re-designing the criminal justice system around 5 guiding principles of re-entry.


Wills, Maralys and Mike Carona. Save My Son: A Mother and a Sheriff Unite to Reclaim the Lives of Addicted Offenders. Center City, MN: Hazelden Information & Educational Services, 2000. Calls for a transformation of the prison system to emphasize treatment programs, rather than long prison sentences, for non-violent drug offenders.

ADULT FICTION


Cray, David. Keeplock: A Novel of Crime. New York: Otto Penzler Books, 1995. Peter Frangello has been in and out of prison since he was 16. Now in his 30’s, he is being released once more and this time he is determined to stay out of prison for good. However, when an old friend from prison asks him to join in a heist he’s planning, Frangello struggles to do the right thing.

Johnson, Mat. Hunting in Harlem: A Novel. New York: Bloomsbury, 2003. Three ex-cons join a Harlem real estate company’s “Second Chance” program. The company is supposedly trying to revitalize Harlem but the ex-cons soon uncover a more sinister plot that they themselves appear to be embroiled in.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


Delve Deeper into "Omar & Pete"
A film by Tod Lending

The story of a borderline mentally retarded woman who was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison for murdering a child. (83 min.)

Grunberg. Log In Productions. 2004. (83 min.)

"Borderline." A film by Slawomir Grunberg. Log In Productions. 2004. (83 min.) The story of a borderline mentally retarded woman who was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison for murdering a child.

"God and the Inner City." A film by Michael Pack. Manifold Productions. 2003. (60 min.) Three leaders of inner city, faith-based groups are working with law enforcement officials and social workers to save youth from unemployment, drugs and prison.

"Manhood & Violence: Fatal Peril." A film by Mike and Sonja Gilligan. Hudson River Film & Video. 2004. A look at nine men who were sentenced to prison and face the challenges of re-entering into society.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
These articles are all available online from ProQuest.


VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Getting Out." A film by Robe Imbriano. Crystal Stair Productions. 2003. Follows three former inmates as they are released from prison and face the challenges of re-entering into society.


"Manhood & Violence: Fatal Peril." A film by Mike and Sonja Gilligan. Hudson River Film & Video. 2004. A look at nine men enrolled in San Francisco County jail’s violence prevention program, where the re-arrest rate for violent crimes dropped by 80% after only four months of intense immersion in the program, and then follows them upon their release from prison.


"Prison Lullabies." A film by Lina Matta and Odile Isralson. Brown Hats Productions. 2003. (83 min.) Focuses on four women, all of whom were arrested while pregnant, and sentenced to prison time in the Taconic Correctional Facility in New York State, one of only five prisons in the U.S. that has a nursery program. The film follows them as they are released and faced with the challenges of the outside world—finding a job, looking...
Delve Deeper into "Omar & Pete"
A film by Tod Lending

after children and staying off drugs.
www.prisonlullabies.com/

"Red Hook Justice." A film by Meema Spadola. Sugar Pictures. 2004. (55 min.) In 2000, an experimental court opened in Red Hook, Brooklyn—a neighborhood with high unemployment, poverty and crime rates. The Red Hook court is at the center of a legal revolution—the community justice movement. Instead of jail time, offenders are sentenced to job training, drug counseling, and community service. However, if they fail, they face longer jail time.
www.pbs.org/independentlens/redhookjustice/

"Reentry: Life on the Outside." A film by Keith Thomas. Reentry Productions. 2005. (50 min.) First-hand accounts of former prisoners who have made the transition from prison to the community, citing their struggles, successes and failures.
www.reentryproductions.com/

"Road to Return." A film by Leslie Neale and John Densmore. 1998. (56 min.) Follows the men and women enrolled in Project Return, a community/self-esteem building resource program for former prisoners, based in New Orleans. Narrated by Tim Robbins, the film focuses on the particular challenges faced by inmates returning to their communities.
www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/rr.htm

"What I Want My Words to Do to You." A film by Madeleine Gavin, Judith Katz and Gary Sunshine. PBS. 2003. (86 min.) Focuses on a writing group led by playwright and activist Eve Ensler at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Ensler’s classes have given birth to a powerful writing community in which women from strikingly different strata of society, all of whom are serving long sentences, help each other tell their stories.

WEB SITES

P.O.V.’s “Omar & Pete” web site
www.pbs.org/pov/pov2005/omarandpete
Includes an interview with the filmmaker, resources, special features and more.

Islam 101
www.islam101.com/
An educational site on Islam, its way of life, civilization and culture.

Islam Question & Answer
www.islamqa.com/
Aims to provide intelligent, authoritative responses to questions about Islam, whether from a Muslim or non-Muslim, and to help solve general and personal social problems.

Islamicity.com
www.islamicity.com/
Web Directory to articles relating to Islam.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
www.samhsa.gov/
Includes information on substance abuse treatment and prevention, criminal and juvenile justice programs and family and child welfare.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
www.health.org/
Includes information on specific drugs and for specific audiences as well as listings of substance abuse treatment centers and self-help resources.

SoberRecovery
www.soberrecovery.com/
List hundreds of resources for addiction and alcoholism treatment centers in the U.S., Canada, and overseas.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (U.S. Department of Justice)
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/welcome.html
Includes stats on re-entry trends, crime and drugs and prisons among other issues.

U.S. Department of Justice Programs
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/
Includes info on their reentry initiative, federal and state resources and training programs.

Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign
www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/what.htm
In partnership with key organizations and media-based resources, they hope to increase public awareness and dialogue on solution-based reentry programs that foster public safety and support healthy communities.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
www.jjay.cuny.edu/centersinstitutes/pri.asp
John Jay College recently launched their Prisoner Reentry Institute. Upcoming initiatives include: a summit for practitioners and policymakers, a training institute for reentry administrators, and "development of academic curricula for professional schools to facilitate the incorporation of reentry issues into the professional training."